



NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR CINEMA

Report by Richard Guttridge

A FORMER cinema in Stourbridge is to be redeveloped after being snapped up by a property investor.

A care home or retirement complex are among the options being considered for its future use.

The old Savoy Cinema in Lower High Street has sold for £350,000 after being put on the market at the end of last year.

The property contains a series of interlinked buildings which stretch onto Crown Lane. Estate agents Walton and Hipkiss, which handled the sale, said there was a possibility for a mixed use development including shops.

The new owner is said to be in discussions with several 'interested parties' about the future of the site.

The historic building has not been used as a cinema for more than three decades and in recent years attracted controversy when it was a lap-dancing club.

It has also been used for retail and most recently was a health and fitness club.

Groups wanting to reopen the Savoy as a cinema had shown interest but it is now thought unlikely that will happen.

Property expert Alan Knight, head of commercial at Walton and Hipkiss, said either a retirement complex or care facility were among most likely uses for the building.

Options

He said: "We sold it to a property investor who is looking at various options to redevelop the site.

"I don't think it will ever be used as a cinema again, they are looking at options and talking with the planning authority. I think it will be predominantly residential or retirement living, possibly care, maybe with some commercial retail on the ground floor."

Mr Knight said the building had attracted significant interest due to its location in the heart of Stourbridge. He believes it will be at least a year before any work gets under way.

He said it was possible the old cinema building could be demolished rather than converted. He said: "We had a good level of interest and sold it for a pretty good figure. We had a number of offers."

"The investor has a lot of interested parties they are working with looking at alternative uses for the site."

The Savoy closed as a cinema in 1982 after more than 60 years as a picturehouse, originally called the Scala.

LIFE ON THE EDGE BRINGS CROWDS TO ROCK HOUSES



Visitors such as Jim and Sheila Lyne of Warwick have seen numbers at the Rock Houses on Kinver Edge soar to over 23,000

BOASTING panoramic views of the countryside and giving visitors the chance to visit its famous rock houses, Kinver Edge has always been a popular place.

But with visitor numbers up by more than 4,000 this year, the beauty spot near Stourbridge is seeing opening hours extended at the National Trust Kinver Edge site and a recruitment drive launched to take on 40 more volunteers.

The National Trust attraction will open site seven days a week during school holidays for the first time.

It comes as visitor numbers to the Rock Houses soared to more than 4,000, an increase to 23,378 compared to 19,161 the previous year.

Volunteer roles available include tours leaders for the historic site, people who can help with traditional hands-on activities and those who can keep the cottage gardens neat and tidy.

Helen Selkirk, visitor experience officer, said that the increase in visitors had led to the decision to open for more days.

She added: "Demand has been key to our

decision. It is such an unique site and by opening longer we will also be able to spread more crowds out on different days."

The Rock Houses are home to the last set of complete cave-houses excavated into the local sandstone and were inhabited until the 1960s. One house has been restored to a Victorian appearance, and the Martindale Caves show what life was like in the 1930s.

Volunteer drop-in days are being held at the Rock Houses on Saturday between 11am and 4pm; March 16 between 11am and 1pm; and March 24 between 1pm and 4pm.

COURT

Husband admits murder of his wife

A HUSBAND has admitted murdering his wife, in an altercation over tickets for an Elvis Presley tribute act.

Paul Abbott appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday and pleaded guilty to the murder of Jacqueline Abbott. She died after being found with serious head injuries at the couple's home in Lodge Crescent, Netherton, on December 11. The fatal injuries were sustained during an altercation over a planned night out.

Abbott, 57, was remanded in custody for a hearing in April. Judge John Wait warned Abbott that he faced a life sentence.

SALARY

£800-a-day council chief stays for now

AN £800-a-day temporary chief officer will remain in post at cash-strapped Dudley Council children's services department until at least later this year.

The appointment of Merlin Joseph sparked controversy last year over concerns about her high salary.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Judy Foster, said they will seek to have a permanent replacement later this year. But she added that the situation would only change if the authority found 'the right candidate'.

ATTACK

Teenager remanded in secure hospital

A TEENAGER has been cleared of the attempted murder of a 66-year-old man in a knife attack in Dudley but was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm.

Tommy Smith – a paranoid schizophrenic – launched the onslaught on Peter Churm with such force that the eight inch weapon broke in two.

On Monday at Wolverhampton Crown Court, 18-year-old Smith, of Grove Street, Dudley, was cleared of attempted murder. He was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and burglary and remanded to a secure psychiatric hospital for reports until a date still to be fixed.

INSIDE

NEW LOCATION FOR TV'S CAFE



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Focus on children at risk of exploitation

MORE than 60 children are deemed at 'medium or high risk' of sexual exploitation in Dudley, a new report reveals.

The borough is building on police intelligence, training taxi drivers to spot signs of sexual exploitation and forming education programmes for children as part of plans to tackled the dangers facing young people.

In total, 64 children are deemed at medium or high risk of sexual exploitation in the report, which will be discussed at a meeting of Dudley Council's People Services committee tonight (Thursday).

Council officials say they have a 'long journey'

ahead to tackle the issue but are working on improving the outlook for vulnerable children.

Schools are planning to use a website by the Dot Com Children's Foundation to educate children on keeping safe. Theatre groups will also tour schools with performances as part of the education programme.

Officials want to raise community awareness of the issue to help people spot the signs and report concerns. Mandatory training is under way for taxi drivers and officials want to monitor cab firms from outside Dudley operating in the borough.

A child improvement board has been set up to scrutinise progress on improvements.

Dudley UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said: "Dudley is now heading in the right direction but it has a lot of work to do."

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board chairman, Roger Clayton, said: "Protecting vulnerable children and young people is of the utmost importance. "The board's partners, including the council, police and voluntary sector, are working extensively to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation."

Dudley Council strategic director, Tony Oakman, wrote in a report: "It is recognised that as a council, we have a long journey ahead to eradicate child sexual exploitation from our streets."

Beggars will be removed from area, say police

POLICE have promised to remove beggars from a Black Country High Street after it was revealed they had been conning shoppers out of money.

A group of around half a dozen people, dubbed 'professional beggars' by police, have been posing as homeless and hanging around outside Tesco in Cradley Heath High Street, when they are actually in receipt of full benefits.

Police say dispersal orders have moved some of them on but there is a group who are refusing to budge and have remained on the High Street.

Traders have called for more action to remove the beggars, who have also been seen at the train station.

Sergeant Jason Phillips, of Cradley Heath Police, said many of the beggars were previously known to police and some had already been brought before the courts.

He said: "We first became aware of the problem a month or so before Christmas. We identified a group of six or seven people who have been involved in low-level crime and have come across from the Dudley area. They appeared to be working as a team; two would come and get dispersed then another two would arrive."

"Through our investigations we discovered they weren't homeless and were in receipt of benefits and basically conning the public."

Sgt Phillips said the force would look at using criminal behaviour orders which could ban anyone who returns and continues to cause a nuisance.

Question mark over centre for the elderly

A DAY centre in Stourbridge which is used by 400 elderly and vulnerable people a week is facing an uncertain future.

Age Concern is currently allowed to use the Mary Stevens Centre on Hagley Road for free for day care services.

However, bosses at the charity's Stourbridge and Halesowen branch fear they may have to move out, a decision that could leave elderly people - many who are suffering with the early stages of dementia - with nowhere to go.

Dudley Council has got to save £20 million over the next two years and has already announced Dudley Museum will close and library hours will be cut. Council bosses admit they were facing difficult choices due to huge budget cuts.

However, council bosses insist no decisions had been made about the future of the Age Concern service.

Councillor Dave Branwood, who is responsible for adult social care, said: "We have made no decision over the future of Mary Stevens Centre. We manage the centre on behalf of the Ernest Stevens Trust, so anything we do with regard to the building is subject to agreement by the trust."

Difficult

"These are very difficult times with unprecedented reductions in funding from central government. We will continue to work closely with the community across the borough to explore new ways of delivering services in line with our commitment as a community council."

Kenneth Turner, who is on the board of directors at Age Concern, said he had been informed the group might have to leave the centre it has been permitted to use for the last 20 years and says the council has been non-committal about their future.

Age Concern also runs the Elton Centre in Stourbridge town centre but he said that site would not be big enough to take in an extra 400 people.

Mr Turner said: "They have not confirmed or denied if we are to be moved out. We look after 400 members of the community a week, many in the initial stages of dementia."

"What we are now looking to do is extend the Elton Centre but we would need to close it down for 12 to 18 months."

Applause for stage performances



Mark Stanley and James Collins from Stourbridge Theatre Company, appearing in Dial M for Murder

A THEATRE company from Stourbridge has scooped awards at a Midlands show celebrating the best amateur stage performances.

Stourbridge Theatre Company was named the overall winners at Worcestershire Theatre Festival.

Eleven groups from across the Midlands took part in the showcase event held at the Norbury Theatre in Droitwich.

The theatre company, which stages shows at Stourbridge Town Hall, is preparing to perform its

latest show Dial M for Murder next week.

It was not only the top prize which the company took home after the event.

Festival adjudicator Mike Kaiser awarded Stourbridge best play for Bookends by Scott Perry.

Actors

Leading actors Richard Delahaye and Alex Long took a joint prize as best actors.

Stourbridge Theatre Company's

next production, again directed by Sandra Griswold, thriller Dial M for Murder by Frederick Knott is being staged between March 17 and 19 at Stourbridge Town Hall Theatre at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £9 and concessions from £7 from The French Deli, in Coventry Street, Stourbridge.

Tickets are also available on boxoffice@stourbridgetheatrecompany.org.uk, or for further information visit the www.stourbridgetheatre.co.uk website.

Governors win national award

A SPECIAL school in the Black Country has been awarded a national award.

The board of governors at The Westminister School in Rowley Regis has been awarded the Governor Mark, which is a National Governors Association approved quality standard.

The award recognises the board's high quality of governance and highlighted a number of areas assessors were especially impressed with. Fewer than 50 secondary schools in the country have achieved the accolade.

Headteacher Christine Hill said: "We have an extremely supportive governing board which works exceptionally hard for all of our pupils. We are delighted that their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to The Westminister School has been recognised nationally."

Irish band mark St Patrick's Day

Irish band Murphy's Law will be performing at a St Patrick's Day event being held at a Stourbridge pub and music club. The free admission event, with guest Rodge David, is being held in the cellar bar at Katie Fitzgeralds in Envile Street on Thursday, March 17.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital recruits Filipino nurses

MORE than 130 nurses will be recruited from the Philippines to work at Russells Hall Hospital.

The move comes after figures recently revealed some shifts had been understaffed at the hospital over the past 12 months.

Speaking at a Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust board meeting last week, chief nurse Dawn Wardell said: "We will be going to the Philippines on April 9 and have more than 130 people to interview."

"We have also made contact with an agency in India."

Worst fly-tipping hotspots revealed

FLY-TIPPING hotspots in the Black Country have been revealed, with several areas in Dudley and Halesowen identified.

Devon Crescent in Dudley is one spot being targeted by fly-tippers, according to the police.

Other hotspot include are Lapal Lane South in Halesowen and Crockett Lane in Smethwick.

Dudley councillor Hilary Bills said fly-tipping caused a blight on the landscape and left council taxpayers out of pocket.

Threat is hanging over npower jobs

HUNDREDS of npower staff in the Midlands face an uncertain future as the shadow of redundancy hangs over 2,500 of the firm's jobs in the UK.

The German-owned energy giant is still refusing to comment over reports that it is set to announce plans to axe up to a quarter of its workforce.

The npower workers at the company's Birch House offices in Oldbury have already survived one major jobs cull when two years ago 250 of their colleagues lost their jobs.

Murder is topic for historian's library talk

AN historian and author will be giving a talk on Black Country murders.

Don Cochrane is giving the talk in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Library on Friday, March 18 at 2.30pm. Admission is £3 and places can be booked on (01384) 812945.

Mr Cochrane from Stourbridge has researched some of the most notorious offences carried out in the Black Country. His books include Crimes of Worcestershire and Black Country Murders.

Calendar helps wildlife

SALES of Dudley Zoo's 2016 calendar have raised £520.73 for endangered African hunting dogs.

They had to print extra calendars after initially selling out the first print run for the £4.99 calendar. Last year's calendar sales raised £700 towards wild tiger conservation projects.

Councillor accused of online racist comments

A UKIP Councillor in Dudley has been reported to the council's standards department for allegedly making racist comments.

Councillor Stuart Henley has been reported to standards by the Halesowen Yemeni Community Association.

This follows comments he made online about the council opting to use the Yemeni Association to provide services at Halesowen Youth Centre.

He wrote: "Dudley Council cannot get any worse. They are renting a youth centre to a Yemeni group."

"It was reported to myself by a group in Halesowen and a previous police sergeant that Yemeni teen males caused issues with females in Halesowen and now they wish these young females to use this centre."

Concern

Dudley Council's monitoring officer Philip Tart confirmed the council had received 'an expression of concern' about comments made.

In a statement Councillor Henley, a Halesowen North ward representative, said his actions were fair and necessary in his role as an elected spokesman.

He said: "I had the concern raised by both residents and a police officer. As an elected spokesman it is my duty to express such concerns."

Saif Salih from the Yemeni Association, claimed the comments Councillor Henley originally made were 'nothing but scaremongering' with 'obvious racial views'.

Motorcyclist is taken to hospital

A MOTORCYCLIST suffered leg injuries in a crash involving a car on a busy Dudley road.

The rider, aged is in his 20s, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after the collision involving a Jeep on the Birmingham New Road shortly before 5.30am on Monday.

His injuries were described as not life threatening.

Debris was left scattered across the road, with the severely damaged bike resting on the grass verge surrounded by broken glass and smashed bodywork.

The Birmingham New Road remained closed between Vicarage Road West and the A457 Sedgley Road for motorists travelling towards Dudley throughout the morning rush hour.

Roadworks due to be completed

ROADWORKS that have caused disruption along a Sedgley road have been completed.

Temporary traffic lights at Gospel End were installed last week as a gas pipe was laid.

MP hails U-turn over medals contract

TRIUMPHANT Dudley North MP Ian Austin has hailed a Government climb down over plans to award a contract to manufacture British military medals to a French firm as 'the right move'.

The announcement comes after West Midlands metal firms expressed their anger over Paris-based Arthus-Bertrand being lined up to become the first foreign company to get a Government contract for Queen's Honours awards.

Labour MP Mr Austin raised the issue in Parliament last week after he was contacted by furious Midlands medal makers.

The move had also sparked concern among veterans from across the Black Country. But the Government appears to have performed a U-turn after

David Cameron was quizzed over the decision by Mr Austin in Parliament.

During Prime Minister's Questions last Wednesday, Mr Cameron admitted he had no knowledge of the contract. A day later a spokesman for No10 said no contract had been awarded to a French firm.

Mr Austin said: "It is extremely good news if the Government has indeed confirmed that none of the medals will be made in France. This is the right move and I know the craftsmen in Birmingham and people involved in charities and other volunteer organisations that get awarded these medals will be delighted"

"The idea of giving business to a foreign firm to make British medals is just ridiculous. Some of the

best medal manufacturers in the world are based in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter."

John Deane, aged 79, president and treasurer of the Dudley Royal Air Force Association, said: "If French medals were being made in the UK there would be uproar over there, so it is only right that the Government has gone back on its decision."

Arthus-Bertrand was initially awarded the contract after a tendering process to become official suppliers of medals to Cabinet Office branch The Crown Commercial Service. The deal involved manufacturing 20 British medals, including the Distinguished Service Order which is awarded for outstanding leadership in military service and Commander of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Male nurse who denied staff kisses loses claim

A MALE nurse who had been accused of grabbing and kissing female staff, including two nurses, at a Dudley hospital has lost a legal claim involving the loss of his job.

A matron and a manager accused Douglas Mateta, of Brierley Hill, of 'aiming for young and newly appointed females' at Russells Hall Hospital. He denied the allegations.

The allegations were made against Mr Mateta as he made a legal claim for constructive unfair dismissal at Birmingham Employment Tribunal against The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

After a two-day hearing, tribunal judge Mr David Perry decided in favour of the trust and rejected Mr Mateta's claim. Mr Mateta had sought compensation totalling more than £71,000 after complaining about pension losses. A claim for discrimination was not proceeded with after Mr Perry said it had not been included in Mr Mateta's statement.

Misconduct

Mr Tim Sheppard, representing the Trust, said Mr Mateta had been dismissed for gross misconduct and then re-instated after the claimant complained the dismissal decision had been harsh. The trust relocated Mr Mateta at Corbett Hospital, in Stourbridge, where he had previously worked.

Mr Mateta, aged 41, of Zimbabwean origin, later resigned, making his claim for constructive unfair dismissal after alleging his feelings had been injured by the Trust's actions of 'tormenting his mentality'. He complained he had been forced to resign.

Mr Sheppard accused Mr Mateta of 'inappropriate behaviour' with three staff including allegedly putting his arms around the upper part of a female staff member.

A matron and a manager said two female members of staff had told them Mr Mateta had kissed them on the cheek. The tribunal was told that work routines were changed because some staff did not want to work alongside him.

He denied all the allegations in his witness statement, said he loved his job and was half-way through doing his masters degree when the allegations were made. "I was shocked by the allegations," he said, pointing out that he had ten years of service with a good reputation.

Mr Perry said: "I do not believe the claimant was forced to resign."

Football club snaps up TV cafe



Outside the blue cafe are club shop manager Emma Broughton and bar manager Louisa Anderson

THE title star of a TV show has been snapped up by Halesowen Town Football Club - it's the new cafe for supporters on match days.

The building has arrived at The Grove stadium after the club's owner Steve Lynch spotted it for sale on online auction site eBay.

The blue wooden structure had appeared in the 13-episode Sky One sitcom The Cafe, when it was situated in Weston-Super-Mare, and starred Ralf Little. Now here

is talk of getting the actor, who also featured in The Royal Family, to officially unveil the new building at The Grove.

Mr Lynch thought the building would be a perfect addition to the home of the Yeltz when he spotted it advertised for £5,000.

As it was used as a TV set, it was only partially built and has needed to undergo work to make it complete. It has already been used by fans on a trial basis but is

expected to be open permanently next season for hot refreshments before matches, as well as at half time and afterwards.

Mr Lynch said: "It is something unique and unusual, I thought it would be great for the fans. It will be an indoor cafe when at the moment we have cabins but people have to stand outside."

"It will improve the facilities. There will be a disabled toilet in there too."

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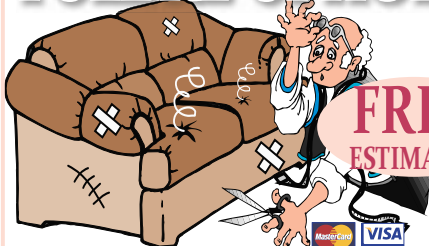
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YEAH, we gotta stop polluting the air and we gotta take the planet seriously. Bite-sized gobblets of eco-wisdom dropped from the lips of the great and good at the Oscars. Here's a good question for them. How many times did you fly last year?

THANKS for all your emails on whatever happened to big ends, those bits deep within car engines that so often gave up the ghost in days of yore. If I cut and pasted all your learned contributions I would have a 2,500-word dissertation and possibly qualify for some sort of degree. I gather that's how academia works these days.

A READER says it's time to name and shame those who wrongly use words that sound the same. The classic example, he says, is the graffiti on a railway bridge near Oswestry proclaiming: "Gorilla War Fair."

TIME required to fight and win the first World War: four years. Time required to fight and win the Second World War: six years. Time required to draw up new trade agreements in the event of the UK leaving the EU (according to Whitehall): 10 years. In this war of words, as with any war, the first casualty is truth.

THIS was the week, as you have probably noticed, when Donald Trump stopped being mad. After his Super Tuesday success, there were no wild-eyed demands to exclude Muslims or keep Mexicans out behind a massive wall. Instead, he spoke of unity and co-operation. What's going on? There are two explanations. The first, from Piers Morgan, is that Trump has behaved outrageously to dominate the media and now, having virtually won the Republican nomination, can return to being the sober, reasonable business manager he is.



The second explanation, which I prefer, is that Trump merely wanted to shake up US politics and never in his wildest dreams expected to get this far. With the White House on his horizon and not an iota of experience in politics, he is frightened to death of becoming president and needs all the friends he can find.

THE Alliance of British Drivers claims speed cameras have failed to deliver "genuine reductions in road-accident rates" and are "a monumental waste of a very great deal of money." Meanwhile, the Pope is still a Catholic and bears are to be found crouching in forests. The case for speed traps is made mainly by the so-called "safety partnerships," who have a vested interest in providing a steady stream of erring motorists to attend driver-awareness courses at £100 a time. This is a £200m-a-year industry which provides part-time employment for ex-cops. The system sets its own limits, provides its own customers and imposes its own charges.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Charity appeal for volunteer drivers

A CANCER charity is appealing for volunteer drivers to transport patients to appointments across the Black Country.

White House Cancer Support, in Dudley, is on the lookout for drivers to spare a few hours each week.

The organisation, based in Ednam Road, has more than 20 drivers already signed up.

But officials are hoping to boost

this number through a recruitment drive. The charity covers mileage and telephone expenses for volunteer drivers.

White House manager Caroline Webb said: "Our volunteer drivers not only help people with cancer but take a great deal of pressure off their carers, families and friends too, by giving a helping hand at what can be a very difficult time.

"We want people with a clean driving licence, a reliable vehicle and the commitment to give a few hours each week to join our current team.

"They will be providing transport to local hospitals across the Black Country for medical treatments and appointments."

She added: "Our drivers are all ages and from very different backgrounds – some are retired, others fit

in volunteering around busy workloads, and others do it because their own families have been touched by cancer.

"It's a much-valued service and is very rewarding for the drivers as they really do make a difference to people's lives."

Call White House Cancer Support transport co-ordinator Jon Rebello for details call (01384) 231232.

Poundland boss tells of pride and retirement

THE retiring boss of Poundland has spoken of his pride at the success of the Black Country-based company.

Jim McCarthy is to leave the business this summer after a decade in charge, turning Poundland into a £1 billion-a-year international concern.

The firm, with its headquarters beside the Black Country Route at Willenhall and a major distribution depot in Bilston, was founded in 1990 by Steve Smith and his father Keith. They sold up for £50m in 2000 and the new owners hired Jim McCarthy, the former head of Sainsbury's convenience stores, in 2006.

He already had a strong track record in retail, starting out as a paperboy with Dillons newsagents and later running Black Country-based T&S Stores with Wolverhampton businessman Kevin Threlfall – a man Mr McCarthy has often referred to as his mentor.

Under Mr McCarthy's leadership, Poundland has grown from 146 stores with sales of £310m to a business with over 900 stores in the UK, Ireland and Spain, adding an additional £1bn of sales in the process. He has also overseen the £55m takeover of 99p Stores last year and took the company public on the London Stock Exchange.

Mr McCarthy said: "There's a time when the cardigan and slippers have some more appeal. I said that I would go at 60, and I reached that age in January. There is a feeling of a job well done. It's a brilliant business and they are a marvellous team – they are the best in retail."

Secular campaigners join EU prayer wrangle

By Andrew Turton

A SECULAR group has called for an end to prayers at council meetings, after a clergyman sparked controversy by raising the European Union referendum at a Dudley Council meeting.

Mayor's chaplain Reverend Andrew Wickens was accused of bringing politics into prayer, leading to concerns being voiced by some councillors.

He told councillors at the full council meeting on February 22 that those arguing for an exit from the EU 'need to be aware of the risks of stoking anti-European sentiment'.

He added that migrants trying to enter Britain and the EU should not be 'further stigmatised'.

But his opening prayers were interrupted after his comments. Conservative councillor Chris Elcock called out: "What has this got to do with prayer. Can we just have the Lord's Prayer."

Councillors, including Dudley UKIP group members, hit out at the speech but council leader Councillor Pete Lowe and Dudley North MP Ian Austin have supported Rev Wickens.

The National Secular Society has urged council officials to rethink prayers in light of the issue. Campaigns manager, Stephen Evans, in a letter to the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "With the merits of prayers during official council business under scrutiny, I would urge you to take this opportunity to rethink the practice of including prayer in council meetings."

"I would hope that all serving councillors are keen to ensure that the meetings of Dudley MBC are conducted in a manner equally welcoming to all attendees, regardless of individual religious beliefs or lack of belief."

Mr Wickens is the vicar at St Thomas and St Luke's Church – Top Church – in Dudley. He again led prayers at a council meeting on February 29.

Pupils inspired by Sharpe example



Football hero Lee Sharpe opens the new library at Huntingtree Primary School with pupils and staff

FORMER Premier League footballer Lee Sharpe returned to his home town to cut the ribbon on a new school library.

The ex-Manchester United midfielder gave an inspiring speech to pupils at Huntingtree Primary School in Halesowen and said he was delighted to be back home.

Lee marked the opening by cutting the ribbon before speaking to pupils at an assembly.

The 44-year-old said: "It is nice to be back in the Midlands. My sister, who works at the school, said the students had done a lesson where they discussed ideas of what they want to be when they grow up and how they would get there.

"I spoke to the kids about perseverance and my experience of getting let go by clubs and practising football by myself in my garden.

"After that all the kids went in and had plenty to write about with a lot of ideas - they were pretty inspired which is nice to know."

Lee, who also played for England eight times, grew up in Halesowen and enjoyed a successful career with the Red Devils under Sir Alex Ferguson, winning nine medals in total including the Premier League title three times and the FA Cup twice.

Deputy headteacher Emma Grice said: "He is a great local role model. The message was if you work hard enough, you can get somewhere, and being local as well, it makes the message seem real for the children."

Station car park in bid to double size

TIPTON train station's car park is to more than double in size under new plans to solve commuter parking problems.

An extra 107 parking spaces would be created as part of the major extension designed to ease congestion on nearby roads.

Improvements to the park-and-ride bus terminal also form part of the ambitious proposals, which are to be lodged with Sandwell Council by transport giant Centro.

People living near the train station have complained about commuters leaving their cars across driveways in side streets and it is hoped the extension to the car park could end that problem.

The current car park currently only has 76 spaces.

M5 slip roads in night closures at 5 and 6

THE southbound carriageway and entry slip roads at junction 5 and 6 of the M5 will be closed overnight from 8pm until 6am from tonight (Thursday) until Sunday.

A diversion route for motorists will be signposted.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Profits heading up at The Tipton

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society has enjoyed a rise in profits as its mortgage lending also increased.

The society saw its net profit rise by more than four per cent in 2015 to £2.31 million from £2.14m a year before and mortgage lending also rose by three per cent on 2014 to £52.08m.

The 115-year-old society's gross capital increased to £35.31m, up more than nine per cent on the previous year. Chief executive Richard Newton said: "To report such upbeat figures during a time of continued economic uncertainty is a solid achievement."

Trees to get chop despite campaign

TWO beech trees near a church in Lye will be chopped down after councillors gave the go-ahead – despite public concerns. People wanted to save the trees in the churchyard at Christ Church.

Archdeacon of Dudley the Venerable Nikki Groarke described the trees as being 'greatly valued by the local community'.

The trees caused significant structural damage to properties nearby, the council said, and gave permission for them to be felled. Two replacement trees will be planted.

Choir and folk group join forces

THE Sound Company community choir will be joined by the Old Grey Cat folk band for a cabaret-style concert at St John's Church, Stourbridge, on Saturday, March 19, at 7.30pm.

The musical programme will range from Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons to folk favourites with a finale of Irish Blessing by Cob Chilocott.

Tickets cost £6 and will be available on the door or email insoundcompany@gmail.com in advance.

Heads up for gig by former Argent singer

MUSICIAN, songwriter and singer Russ Ballard will be appearing at Bilston's Robin 2 on Sunday.

Russ Ballard is the former lead vocalist and guitarist of rock band Argent, who had a massive hit with Hold You Head Up. Tickets are priced at £17.50 in advance and £18.50 on the door at the Mount Pleasant venue.

To book tickets, contact the box office on 01902 401211, or visit the website at www.therobin.co.uk to buy online or to see the venue's gig guide.

Quad bike is stolen

A QUAD bike was stolen after thieves raided outbuildings in Kinver. The buildings were broken into in the early hours of Thursday morning in Greensforge Lane. Chainsaws and leaf blowers were also stolen. Anyone with information should call police on 101 or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Many more homes are needed to solve crisis

COUNCIL bosses in Dudley have said they are doing all they can to build more affordable homes across the borough but have admitted that there are not enough in the pipeline.

A council report has revealed almost 10,000 new affordable homes would need to be built in the borough to meet the level of demand.

Experts from the authority say the number of people struggling to buy or rent their own homes is forcing them to seek council housing instead.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said she was hopeful the new West Midlands combined authority, being formed by the Black Country and Birmingham authorities, can help ease the pressure for more homes.

Shortage

She said: "There is a shortage of new and affordable housing in Dudley and, while we are doing all we can to address this, we are currently only able to provide 150 homes a year."

"We consistently look at ways of providing more housing, this includes working with housing associations, private house builders and funding our new-build council house programme."

She added: "While we are hopeful that the new combined authority will enable us to identify more opportunities across all tenures it is clear that under the current circumstances the homes that are so badly needed are not being built."

Speedway rivals unite for charity

CRADLEY Heathens and Wolves speedway riders will put their best feet forward with fans of both clubs at an event to raise funds for Sport Relief.

The rivals, who will share Monmore Green this year, are inviting supporters to the Wolverhampton Sport Relief Mile on March 20 from 11am.

Two riders will lead the walk – Max Clegg, from Wolves, and Ashley Morris, who is set to return to the Heathens. It's an opportunity for fans to walk – or jog – the six laps of the Monmore Green circuit.

Wolverhampton promoter Chris Van Straaten said: "There will be live music on the terraces and it should be a very enjoyable day out for a great cause."

Delay removing rubbish mountain

A clean-up of a huge rubbish mound near homes in Brierley Hill has hit delays after a change of contractors. The Environment Agency said work had been delayed at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd but should restart soon.

Injured taxi driver thanks well-wishers



Mohammed Ahmed with Shaz Saleem

A TAXI driver who was left with a fractured skull after a vicious attack is recovering in hospital and has thanked well-wishers for their support.

Mohammed Ahmed was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after the brutal attack in Brierley Hill.

Mr Ahmed, aged 60, was found collapsed with serious head injuries after the assault in Bell Street South. He was taken to hospital in a critical condition after being treated at the scene.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association chairman Shaz Saleem said

Mr Ahmed, who works for Brierley Hill-based Newline Taxis, has been overwhelmed by the support.

He said: "He is understandably shaken up and cannot remember the attack whatsoever. But he said he feels overwhelmed by the messages of support that he has received since the attack."

Memory

"At this stage he is suffering from memory loss and cannot remember certain parts of his life. But he wanted everyone to know he has been

humbled by the community spirit and would like to express his thanks."

Mr Saleem was joined by other taxi drivers from across the Black Country when they visited Mr Ahmed, from Old Hill, in hospital.

Mr Saleem added: "Our taxi drivers cover a relatively small area but we are close and work together. He is one of us."

Investigations are continuing into the attack and anyone with information should call West Midlands Police force CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Health and voluntary services under threat

HEALTH and voluntary services are under threat across a Black Country borough, it has been revealed, as massive council cuts continue to bite.

Jobs could be lost as part of a restructuring of cash-strapped Dudley Council's public health department while plans to slash £3 million in funding of voluntary groups could have a major impact on services.

The authority's health boss Rachel Harris said she could not rule out redundancies as part of the restructure. The public health department has been identified as one of the key areas where cash can be saved as the authority aims to cut spending by £20m over the next three years.

Councillor Harris warned some health services provided by the council, such as weight loss and sexual health groups, could also be axed.

Reduction

She said: "We are still trying to work it out. I suspect we will have a very different skill mix which may inevitably mean some people we won't be able to employ."

Councillor Harris said public health would be hit by a £1m reduction in funding from the Government over the next two years on top of £1.3m that has already been cut.

Voluntary groups fear they could be left in ruins due to huge funding cuts. Groups which serve 45,000 people could be affected over the next three years with almost a third warning they will have to cut services as a result.

Job losses are also predicted – with more than a quarter of groups fearing they will be forced to make redundancies across the 1,000 people employed within the sector by 2019.

Andy Gray, spokesman for the Dudley Voluntary Sector Network, said: "We understand the very difficult financial issues the council is facing. But we do want to send a clear and constructive message to Dudley Council that general cuts, without thought to the voluntary and community sector, will have a potentially devastating impact on many people's lives."

Dudley Council's finance chief David Sparks said the authority had been forced to make cuts. He said: "We are now having to cut where we do not want to cut, where we would not choose to cut and where it is not sensible to cut – because we have no alternative."

College builds on its reputation



Skills Minister Nick Boles meets students at Dudley College to hear about the college's plans for Advance II

DUDLEY College students were able to show their construction knowledge to Minister of State for Skills Nick Boles MP, when he visited Dudley to hear about plans for the £12 million Advance II centre.

The state-of-the-art building is due to open fully in spring 2017 and will be the first college of its kind specialising in the latest construction techniques, technology and off-site fabrication.

Mr Boles, Minister of State jointly for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education, spoke to engineering apprentices while on a tour of the existing Priory Road sites.

The Grantham and Stamford Conservative MP donned protective glasses and overalls to take part in practical tasks alongside the students.

The Advance II will be built

next to the £9m Dudley Advance building that was opened last year. The new 37,000 sq ft build will include workshops, classrooms, project spaces, resource areas and welfare and support facilities around a four-storey building called The Hanger.

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin was also present alongside Dudley College Principal Lowell Williams at the launch event last week.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

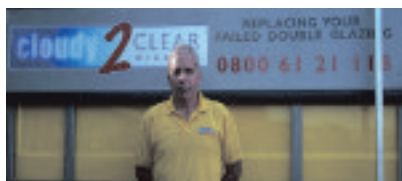
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Pardon but it explains lot about X Factor

LOUIS Walsh, the man who brought us Westlife, Boyzone and Shayne Ward, says a lot of the acts on X Factor have somehow managed to get so far.

Still could be worse. Spare a thought for the rest of us. Some of us can actually hear them.

□ □ □

YOU know, there are those odd occasions when I think our politicians could learn from their counterparts in other countries when it comes to making their work more interesting.

Take for example the deputy leader of Portugal's Labour Party, Jose Manuel Coelho. Last week he was feeling a little miffed about plans to cut his salary, and to reinforce his point in a parliamentary debate, he took off his shirt and trousers while shouting something about "rotten justice". To complete the performance, he was then seen walking out of the parliament wearing just his socks, and boxer shorts, clutching a briefcase and what appeared to be a photograph of The Weakest Link.

Now, I can see there might be a downside if Jeremy Corbyn tried to replicate that look, but hey, I'm sure nobody would object if he kept his vest on.

Meanwhile, over in the Ukraine last year, MP Oleh Barna took exception to something prime minister Arseny Yatsenyuk said. And despite actually being in coalition with Arseny, old Oleh decided the appropriate response would be to lift him from the podium and carry him away. And while this was going on, for some unexplained reason, the prime minister started frantically waving a bunch of red roses as Oleh lifted him over his shoulder.

And then we come to our old friend Robert Mugabe, who belied his youthful good looks with a party to mark his 92nd birthday last week. When a journalist asked him if he had given any thought to who might replace him when he retired, he replied: "Do you want me to punch you to the floor?"

One suspects getting beaten up by a 92-year-old would probably have dented the newsman's pride rather more than his face.

And Poland is now governed by the Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc party. Or the PiS Party as it is more commonly abbreviated.

Is it me, or do you think we are possibly being cheated in this country?

□ □ □

AND congratulations to Rupert Murdoch and Jerry Hall on their wedding. According to reports, the media mogul gave Mick Jagger's ex a £2.8 million marriage-cut diamond engagement ring.

I'm not normally one to give advice to newly weds, but on this occasion, I'm going to make an exception.

Jerry, keep your hands in your pockets when you visit Liverpool.



The Labour leader with Living Water cafe volunteers in Willenhall



The Newport Advertiser – Mr Corbyn was a former reporter



Mr Corbyn in Willenhall with Councillor Sean Coughlan

Corbyn: My love for the Black Country

Labour's Jeremy Corbyn reveals his West Midland roots – an area he fondly remembers. **ROB GOLLEDGE** reports

HE is the firebrand veteran Labour backbencher who became the surprise Leader of the Opposition after sweeping the party's leadership contest by a landslide.

But, surprisingly, the radical left winger's roots can be traced back to a leafy fringe of the Black Country.

The Labour leader's parents worked in Stafford and he grew up in nearby Newport over the Shropshire border.

It was here that he also developed a 'great affection' for the Black Country and its industries.

He has told how growing up in the region shaped him but how even at an early age his views found him at odds with his peers.

In a candid interview with over a cup of tea in Willenhall, during a recent visit to the area, Mr Corbyn said: "Whilst I probably had political differences with just about everybody at various times I remember it all extremely well and enjoyably."

Diversity

"I absolutely do have an affection for the Black Country because the amazing history and diversity of it."

"Different industries took place in different places."

"The nail-makers, the lock-makers, the blast furnaces, and later the car industry, the aircraft industry and all that."

And he sees a bright future for the region.

"I think the renaissance of the Black Country in the sense of culture and art that has



Jeremy Corbyn who visited Willenhall with Andy Burnham recently to launch Labour's gone on has been incredible," he said.

"Also the way in which the centre of Birmingham has been transformed is fantastic."

Mr Corbyn also recalled that he was once in journalism himself, and at one time was a reporter on the Newport and Market Drayton Advertiser, part of the Chronicle's parent group the Midland News Association.

"I was briefly its chief reporter covering everything from crime, education to religious

heavy electrical equipment, based in Stafford – and his mother, Naomi, who taught in both Stafford and Wellington.

He also revealed how his father was part of the founding group that set up the Blists Hill Museum at Madeley.

"I grew up in Shropshire and then in life had the amazing experience of leaving Newport at the end of school and was a volunteer in Jamaica and went there for two years and went around Latin America and so on," he said.

"I then came back and my first job was on a farm."

"I have always been formed by this small town which was my entire world until I left it then went all around the world and end up with the job I am doing now."

"What I liked about it was the sense of community that there was there."

"In a sense everyone is looking for a feeling of community and even in densely-populated urban areas there is still the search for a village belonging."

Landscape

"Village belonging can be a physical one, can be community one in terms of linguistic or ethnic community it can be lots of things. Shropshire is a wonderful county."

"It's the largest inland county and has that amazing diversity of landscape from the relative flat part in North Shropshire and then Church Stretton and Ironbridge, the cradle of the Industrial Revolution."

"Indeed my dad was one of the people who founded the Blists Hill Museum because he was very keen on industrial history and he worked at GEC in Stafford."

"And my mum was a teacher firstly in Wellington and then in Stafford so I remember their anger when the Shrewsbury to Stafford railway line closed."

"I have a real love of Shropshire and the Black Country and have many happy memories from growing up here."

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Christian view should not come as shock

UKIP'S demand to gag Dudley's Reverend Andrew Wickens and ban him from future Dudley Council meetings just shows how intolerant they are.

Reverend Wickens should be commended for expressing concern on the possible adverse impact of the EU debate upon refugees and migrants. After all, as a representative of the Christian faith it should not come as a shock to anyone that the reverend stands up for the most vulnerable in society. Isn't that the Christian thing to do?

It may come as a shock to UKIP council-

EU needs us as trade partners

PRESIDENT Hollande of France warns that there could be 'consequences' if Britain votes to leave the European Union in June.

He warns that migrants could be on our shores and not forming a rather disorderly 'queue' at Calais.

This comes the day after BMW wrote to its UK employees warning of 'consequences' if we leave.

All this goes to show is how worried they are at losing the £50bn annual membership subscription we pay into this 'club'.

The rest of the EU cannot afford to thrust trade barriers up against British goods. They would harm their own economy just as much, if not more, than ours. We import more goods from the rest of the EU than they do from us. They need us.

We are a free state but if the faceless ones in the EU get their way we will become a mere province of the Greater European Super-state. No thanks. We like to decide our own laws. To suit our people.

M GOUGH
Wombourne

lors that not everyone agrees with their cynical attack on refugees and migrants. UKIP in Dudley have now attacked Muslims for wanting a place of worship, Christians, who next?

There are those of us that share the reverend's concerns and that is why we are going to support the Europe-wide demonstration 'Refugees Welcome Here' in London on March 19 as part of the United Nations Anti-Racism day.

TONY BARNSLEY & JERRY LANGFORD
Stand Up to Racism

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Inspiring talks on fighting injustice

ON Monday, March 1 we at Dudley Trades Union Congress were privileged to hear three excellent speakers, all opposing injustices.

We had a junior doctor speaking about their opposition to having a contract imposed upon them by the dreadful, arrogant Jeremy Hunt. She outlined the junior doctors' case most eloquently.

We had a representative of Small Heath School in Birmingham who reported on the staff's unity in opposing the privatisation or academisation of the school. They, like the junior doctors, have had to resort to strike action.

Finally, Dave Smith spoke about blacklisting and how Health and Safety repre-

sentatives and stewards had been unable to get work because they were on an employers' blacklist. The case has been to the High Court and will, I understand, go the European Court of Human Rights.

Three different trades unionists. Three different cases. All united by a common thread of injustice.

Dave Smith was an inspirational speaker and has truly stood up against the big companies.

It was a privilege to hear these people speaking out and opposing bullying. A very inspirational night and Dudley TUC would like to thank the speakers and those who attended.

C STOLL
Halesowen

Museum is our heritage

I'M dismayed at the decision to close the museum and art gallery in Dudley.

It's an excellent building in the heritage part of town, and does have disabled access, contrary to a council statement.

Who are these councillors kidding?

Cutbacks should start at the top - that would keep the museum open.

Regarding the council decision to reduce litter picks and get people to clean their own streets is perhaps a decent suggestion, but I think community payback offenders could get involved, as they do a great job on parks in my area.

At least the streets would look better.

P WINCHURCH
Dudley

Overspending has caused these cuts

I REALLY cannot believe the news I am hearing.

Dudley Council has decided to close the Museum and Art Gallery, supposedly saving thousands of pounds, whilst at the same time they are spending a large sum erecting a giant ferris wheel on the useless Stone Street Square.

Stone Street will be out of bounds for weeks we are told, doing untold damage to the trading potential of some of the shops.

It's about time someone questioned all the overspending they have been guilty of in the past, resulting in all the ferocious cuts being implemented now in 2016.

L SHELDON
Dudley

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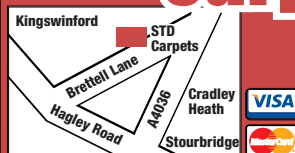
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A coloured photo of a woman being carried in a sedan chair



Grainy but clear image of Japanese Geisha girls



Feeding the poor on Calcutta Maidan is another of the images in the album



Yukon dog team on an Alaskan canyon circa 1900



The ship The Emperor of Japan in a Singapore harbour

A snapshot of life in globetrotting family

A SERIES of incredible images documenting a family's life lift the lid on an unseen world – and have turned up in Walsall Wood more than a century after being taken.

The collection of photographs and postcards were presented to auctioneers Hansons at a valuation day.

The seller, who lived in the area and asked to remain anonymous, explained she had worked for an elderly lady who left her images to thank her for her hard work. She was given four photograph and postcard albums containing pictures from all around the world dating from around 1900.

The owner is identified in the albums as Alice M Findon who built up a series of images sent to her from globetrotting relatives.

One family member, named only as George, served in the Army, which saw him end up in India. He was based in Alhalabad with his

MEMORY LANE

By Richard Guttridge

regiment and sent back pictures to an Edith Findon, possibly his wife. Crowds are seen huddled together in one image entitled 'Feeding the poor on the Calcutta Maidan'.

An image of George himself is also included, sitting in a wooden chair in full uniform, the photograph addressed to Soho Road in Handsworth.

It is not known how the images came to be in Alice's possession. Stunning pictures from Canada, China and Japan also form part of the album. Some are in vivid colour not normally associated with photographs from the time.

One is a striking portrayal of Japanese Geisha girls which manages to be both grainy and incredibly clear. Another shows a woman being carried in a sedan chair.

In one, an Indian woman, apparently 114 years old, is standing out-

side a teepee wrapped in a blanket. The ship The Emperor of Japan is also seen lurking ominously in a Singapore harbour in another image.

Others were sent by Alice's brother Walter Findon who travelled to America in search of fame. During his stay in California his photographs and postcards offered a view of what early 20th century America was like.

The San Pedro Harbour and a crowded beach in Long Beach with everyone wearing full Edwardian dress were among images he sent back. According to Alice, Walter emigrated to the States where he starred in silent movies.

The spectacular array of images left auctioneers at Hansons stunned. Head of media Emma Carberry said the collection was unique and delivered a fascinating insight into barely seen parts of the globe at this time.

They go on sale at an auction between March 17 and 19 and are expected to sell for between £150 and £200.



Chickasaw Indian Squaw 'Auntie Kate', aged 114

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Museum axed but the council tax still rises



Dudley Museum is to close as part of the unprecedented cuts despite a petition signed by 4,000 people wanting to save it

DUDLEY Museum will close, council tax bills will rise and people will have to ring up to get their streets cleaned under budget cuts aimed to save the borough £20 million.

Cash-strapped Dudley Council will increase its share of council tax by 1.99 per cent and take up a Government offer to increase it by a further two per cent for adult social care.

This works out to be an extra 77p per week or £40.04p per year for people living in Band C properties.

Reduced litter collection is forecast to save £55,000, with cabinet member for environmental services, Hilary Bills, saying there is 'not enough money' to carry out the collections any

more. She said: "More and more people are looking after their own street and do their own litter picks, including myself. We will still continue to work in the hotspot areas with fly-tipping and assess where we need to go. But it will be an on demand service because we do not have the money to collect the litter anymore."

Problems

Campaigner Abdul Qadus, of Stourbridge, said that would 'cause a lot of problems environmentally'.

The full council has now made the final decision to go ahead with the cuts. Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said: "To the people in this borough it will mean budgets that will carry cuts to essential services for

years to come. We have never been in this position before. In the past there have been bad years but we have always lived in hope.

"In this unprecedented situation we need to be honest and admit in this council that central government of all persuasions have failed to fully address the need in this borough. None of us got into this position to be making these cuts but we must expect to continue to prepare for them in the borough of Dudley."

One of the toughest decisions was closing Dudley Museum, after 4,000 signed a petition to save the attraction in St James Road. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed promised that the collection would be safeguarded and needed to be in a more accessible building.

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Council ban on some tinted taxi windows

TAXI drivers will have to remove heavily tinted windows from their cabs in Dudley over safety concerns.

Drivers claimed they are being forced to shell out hundreds of pounds to replace factory-fitted windows on their vehicles because they do not meet council safety regulations. There is a rule that at least 40 per cent of light must be able to travel through back windows of Hackney carriages and private hire taxis in order to be granted a licence by Dudley Council.

Council bosses are set to give cabbies three months in which to have the windows changed. The council previously said the rules helped passenger safety in the light of a child sexual exploitation review following incidents elsewhere in the country.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association chairman, Shaz Saleem, said: "I think it is scaremongering. There is no evidence of crimes relating to tinted windows."

Dudley Council strategic director, Alan Lunt, said in a report to the committee: "Dudley's policy on tinted glass has remained unchanged for many years."

It was being discussed this week.

Pair threw bottles at police in car chase

TWO burglars carried out a raid on a shop in Kingswinford then led police on a car chase through the Black Country.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Daniel Spencer and Craig Smith broke into KP Foods in Kingswinford on New Year's Eve 2014 and made off with a haul of cigarettes worth £5,000 as well as cash and alcohol.

They tried to evade arrest by hurtling through Kingswinford, Himley and Sedgley, and throwing bottles out of the window of their stolen car at the chasing police vehicle.

Smith, 25, was jailed for two years while 19-year-old Spencer was handed a 12-month jail term suspended for 12 months by Judge Kristina Montgomery QC.

Mr Walter Bealby, prosecuting, said the pair broke into the shop in Beech Road around 12.30am on December 31, 2014, which was heard by the shop's neighbours.

Sped

When police officers attended the scene they spotted a light blue Volkswagen Passat. The police tried to flag down the car but it sped off, so they set off in pursuit.

Officers were led on a chase through Kingswinford to the A449 towards Wolverhampton, then into Sedgley at speeds reaching 50mph. One of the tyres on the Passat came off, with the metal rim causing sparks to fly.

Mr Bealby said that at one point items were lobbed at the police vehicle, while the defendants also switched

Outcry after a 'vital' bus service is axed

FEARS have been raised that people who rely on public transport could be left stranded after a rural bus service was axed.

The number 147 will no longer run between Halesowen and the village of Catshill, under changes announced by operator First Worcestershire, in a bid to cut costs.

The company said that it needed to focus resources on where demand was the highest.

But Romsley Parish Council said it was disappointed with the decision.

It said in a statement: "Buses are a vital part of Romsley and Hunnington's infrastructure.

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The 144A service is being revised to operate via Sidemoor and replaces service 147 between Worcester and Catshill.

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Missing painting of war hero returned to library



The oil painting depicting Brockmoor soldier Sergeant William Jordan rescuing a wounded comrade in 1915

A PAINTING of a First World War hero in action, which went missing more than two years ago, has been left on the steps of Cradley Library.

The oil painting depicting a Brierley Hill war hero rescuing a comrade turned up left in a carrier bag

The painting of the brave action of Sergeant William Jordan in 1915 was thought to be lost forever when it went missing, presumed stolen, in September 2013.

It was painted by Francis Gibbons,

who lived in Wordsley and donated it as a gift to be hung in Brierley Hill council chamber in 1917. The picture was later moved to Brierley Hill's library, in Moor Street, and remained there until it was moved to the new library in High Street during the 70s.

The artwork was in tribute to Sgt Jordan, of the South Staffordshire Regiment, who lived in Campbell Street, Brockmoor, but died on the opening day of the Battle of Loos.

Libraries boss Councillor Rachel Harris said: "I'm pleased that after all this time someone has been brave enough to return the painting to us."



Sgt Jordan of the South Staffs Regiment

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Mental health is on the agenda

DUDLEY'S Mental Health Trust is preparing to hold an event to celebrate the work communities promoting wellbeing.

The Minds Matter: Celebrating Wellbeing Together event will take place on Tuesday and aims to raise awareness of the contribution local people are making to promoting mental health. It will be held from 9.30am to 3pm at The Venue in Dudley and will feature an awards ceremony, discussions and workshops including laughter yoga.

Mark Axcell, acting chief executive at Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS, said: "An event like this gives us the chance to make positive links and recognise individuals and groups who really impact our area for the better."

Booking is essential, email cdw@dwmh.nhs.uk or call (01384) 366517.

Midland MPs joining forces to protect British steel industry

MPS are set to put pressure on the Government to provide more support for the crisis-hit steel industry in the West Midlands.

Action is set to be taken after a Midland Steel Task Group Meeting in Wolverhampton saw members put plans in place for a bid to help workers in the region.

The collapse of Caparo has seen hundreds of workers lose their jobs in the Midlands, while Tata Steel, which has a plant in Wednesfield, is set to lay off over 1,000 staff, although the axe

isn't expected to fall on any Black Country jobs yet. It is now hoped MPs from the Midlands will join forces to try to force through an amendment to the National Infrastructure Plan to ensure projects such as HS2 are using British steel.

Quality

It is hoped that the quality of British steel over that produced by the Chinese can be used as a bargaining tool in securing more contracts for the UK steel industry.

It was noted that companies like EDF Energy in France have picked up lucrative deals that

could have gone to British companies, while steel firms in Germany and Italy kept contracts to themselves.

The task group is contacting Jonathan Hill, the UK's European Union commissioner. Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds said: "We have to put as much pressure as we can on Government to try and save the industry." Paul Forrest, head of research for West Midlands Economic Forum said: "Obviously some people have interests in getting cheaper steel from China if it saves their business money, but its really damaging the trade."

Bar gets OK to open later

A BAR will be allowed to stay open until the early hours of the morning despite concerns raised about rowdy behaviour.

Presley's Bar in High Street, Cradley Heath, will now be able to stay open until 1.30am between Thursday and Saturday and 12.30am the rest of the week. The venue can play music until 12.30am Thursday-Saturday and an hour earlier the rest of the week.

Cradley Heath Councillor Julie Webb had protested along the longer hours, claiming allowing that would mean people living nearby having to put up with noise and trouble. However, Sandwell Council's planning bosses agreed to the changes.

The bar opened at the end of last year on the site of the former Essentials store.

Pride of place for Shakespeare



Artist Geoff Tristram, of Stourbridge, with his portrait of William Shakespeare

AN IMPRESSIVE painting of William Shakespeare by a Black Country artist has been chosen to go on display in 'The Bard's' hometown as the 400th anniversary of his death approaches.

It took seven weeks for Geoff Tristram from Stourbridge to complete his oil painting of Shakespeare, quill pen in hand at his writing desk.

It will go on display to mark the anniversary of the playwright's death in his birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon. He died on April 23, which may also have have been his 52nd birthday.

Mr Tristram said the painting was a labour of love for him.

"I actually turned my friend into Shakespeare to create the unique look of what I wanted," he said.

"I hired a costume and the setting of

Shakespeare's exact birthplace to do the painting. I thought of everything from the lighting to the desk and chair and I even learned how to write as an Elizabethan for the bit where I painted on his scroll.

"It was a labour of love – but worth it despite all the backache I entailed after locking myself away to paint it for seven weeks," he added.

Mr Tristram was contacted by Stratford Council to undertake the painting after completing another job for them last year.

He has been a professional artist for 40 years – taking part in exhibitions around the Black Country including '40 Years of Watching Paint Dry' at Himley Hall in 2014.

The painting is intended to go on display next month at Stratford-upon-Avon's Town Hall.

Peaky Blinders in Bowie music link

NEVER-BEFORE-HEARD music from David Bowie could feature in the next series of TV drama Peaky Blinders.

Writer Steven Knight has dropped a hint that original music from the late star could feature in the show, which is filmed largely at the Black Country Living Museum.

Bowie recorded some of his final music for Peaky Blinders before he died in January, after which Knight said: "More of that to come."

The writer has also revealed that the music icon was a 'huge fan' of the hit BBC2 drama about Birmingham gangsters in the 1920s.

The Birmingham-born screenwriter made the comments in an interview with Crime Scene magazine, on which the show's main star Cillian Murphy was on the cover.

The soundtrack for Peaky Blinders has achieved a cult following, featuring the likes of Nick Cave, The White Stripes, PJ Harvey, Royal Blood and Arctic Monkeys.

Festival in move north

BLACK Country indie band Ned's Atomic Dustbin has switched its KYTV Festival from Wolverhampton to Manchester this year.

The festival, named for the band's song Kill Your Television, was held at the Civic Hall in December last year, but the 2016 festival will take place at the Manchester Academy on October 29 because of a £10 million revamp at the Civic Halls.

Guests of the Neds at the 2016 KYTV Festival will include EMF and Ferocious Dog.

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Prostate cancer is now the most common cancer to affect men in this country. 41,000 new cases are diagnosed each year - approximately 160 every working day. 10,000 men are dying of this disease each year - i.e. on average one every hour or the equivalent of a Jumbo Jet full of men crashing every ten days. It becomes more common with increasing age (it is unusual in men under 45 years) and is more common when there is a family history of prostate cancer and in men of Afro-Caribbean origin.

Killer

Many men are unaware of this potential killer and think that increasing urinary symptoms are part of getting older but by the time prostate cancer starts to produce symptoms it can be too late to offer a cure. The earliest symptom of curable prostate cancer is to have no symptoms at all and so how can this disease be found at such an early and treatable stage?

Unfortunately there is no perfect clinical test yet available to diagnose prostate cancer but a simple blood test (Prostate Specific Antigen - P.S.A.) can act as an indicator of a prostate problem. An abnormal test can occur as a result of benign enlargement of the prostate or infection within the prostate or bladder. It is also possible to have a "normal" P.S.A. level and still have potentially serious disease within the prostate gland. However, a P.S.A. blood test can also act as an indicator of early curable prostate cancer.

Free blood test

The Worcestershire Prostate Awareness Group is a small charity run by volunteers with the help of a Consultant Urologist and receives sponsorship from local businesses and companies. The charity visits venues in Worcestershire and surrounding areas (Stourbridge) offering men a free blood test which will measure the level of P.S.A. The retired Consultant Urologist, Mr D.C. Baxter-Smith, is present at each event to talk confidentially to any man who wishes to. Further details can be obtained from 07817 - 083492.

A knight to remember



David Threlfall and Rufus Hound in the RSC's new production of Don Quixote Photo: Helen Maybanks

Don Quixote, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
AN UTTERLY compelling performance by David Threlfall as the befuddled and bewildered old knight, mistaking windmills for monsters and flocks of sheep for armies, will no doubt bring the former Shameless star many deserved plaudits.
His portrayal of the deluded penniless Spanish nobleman with a hopeless devotion to chivalry is a masterclass in tragic-comedy.
He launched his career at the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1980 as the tormented young Smike in Nicholas Nickleby, and returns 36 years later to play a man at the end of his life.
Squinting from behind his straggling beard at a hostile world, his Don

Quixote de la Mancha is clearly suffering a form of dementia. Yet he finds a marvellous dignity in his devotion to his moral code, despite the many humiliations heaped upon him from violent angry shepherds, ungrateful freed slaves and a mocking duke and duchess.
He has a fine partner in Rufus Hound as a portly padded Sancho Panza, the long-suffering peasant 'squire' who attempts, but always fails, to keep his master out of trouble.
The sight of the two of them perched upon their ramshackle steeds, plus the slapstick and in-jokes, brought to mind Monty Python. One did expect the Spanish Inquisition, which would not have been so surprising in 17th century Spain.
Director Angus Jackson, a Brum-

mie, has thrown everything but the kitchen sink (though there is a wash basin for a helmet) into this production: songs, puppets, stage fights and lots of comedy.
There are some very witty lines by James Fenton, who has adapted the classic novel by Miguel De Cervantes, who was a contemporary of William Shakespeare.
With a running time of just under three hours (including interval), maybe a couple of the songs could have been cut to make it a little more pacy.
However, it seems harsh to criticise a production with a performance as outstanding as Threlfall's poignant Quixote.
Don Quixote continues in repertoire at The Swan until May 21.
Leon Burakowski



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Classic theatre

Goodnight Mister Tom –
Page 19



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James Morrison



Monday, 8pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
Ten years on from his debut, the Rugby-born singer-songwriter returned to the live scene last year after four years away and released his fourth album *Higher Than Here*.
Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Craig Campbell



Friday, 7pm
Slade Rooms, W'ton
The Devon-based Canadian comic, who has supported Frankie Boyle, shares outrageous stories from his globetrotting adventures in his new stand-up show.
Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Iphigenia In Splott



Tuesday - March 19
The Door at The Rep, B'ham
A young Welsh woman's life spirals out of control in this award-winning adults-only one-woman play by Gary Owen, based on Greek myth, featuring Sophie Melville.
Visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Man Made



Tonight (Thu), 7pm
The Oobleck, B'ham
Catch this on-the-rise Manchester trio fronted by Nile Marr, son of The Smiths' guitarist Johnny Marr. They release debut album *TV Broke My Brain* next month.
Visit www.theoobleck.co.uk

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Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Oh Wonder
Tue at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Blaze Bayley
Tue at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

The Selector
Sat at 7pm, £16.50
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Mersey Beatles: The Beatles Tribute
Sat at 8pm, £16.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Russ Ballard
Sun at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

QE2: Queen Tribute
Sat at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

Defeater
Mon at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac: Fleetwood Mac Tribute
Fri at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

James Morrison
Mon at 7pm, £26.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Flash: Queen Tribute
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The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
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Los Pacaminos
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The Robin, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Christina Martin
Mon at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Josef Salvat
Fri at 6pm - 10pm, £9
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Grimes - POSTPONED
Fri at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
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Natty
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The Stranglers
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O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Tyketto
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The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Los Endos - Ultimate Genesis: Genesis Tribute
Sat at 6.30pm - 10.30pm, £15
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Tragedy: The Bee Gees Tribute
Wed at 8pm
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Yves Lambert Trio
Mon at 7.30pm - 10.30pm,
Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Mark Radcliffe's Galleon Blast
Thu at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Arthur Doherty Band
Tue at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
Fri at 8pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Nathan Carter
Sun at 7.30pm, £24
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSIC & OTHER MUSIC

CBSO 2015-16 - Friday Night Classics: Symphonic Disco Spectacular
Fri at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £47
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Francesco Piemontesi In Recital
Wed at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £28
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Gildas Quartet & Jack McNeill
Fri at 1.10pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

Oslo Philharmonic
Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Grand Organ Gala
Sun at 3pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Callum Smart & Richard Uttley
Wed at 7.30pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

Lunchtime Concert: Virgo Fedelis Convent Senior School Gospel Choir
Fri at 1pm - 1.30pm,
Birmingham Cathedral, B3 2QB. Call 0121 262 1840

Birmingham Symphonic Brass
Sun at 3pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

CBSO 2015-16 - Elgar's Second
Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Musical Picnic (Ages 0-7)
Sat at 10.30am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Sooty Show: Sooty In Space
Sat, Sun times vary
Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU.
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42nd Street
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Thriller Live
Fri at 5pm, 8.30pm, Sat at 4pm, 8pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Goodnight Mister Tom
Tue at 7pm, Wed at 1.30pm, 7pm, Thu at 1.30pm, 7pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Alice In Wonderland
Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Best Thing
Thu at 8pm - 10pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Of Mice And Men
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Fame: The Musical: Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

M6 Theatre: Tadpoles (Over 5s)
Sat at 11.30am, 2pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Iphigenia In Splott
Tue at 8pm, Wed at 8pm, Thu at 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Hetty Feather
Fri at 7pm, Sat at 1pm, 5.30pm, £14 - £24
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Mary Poppins
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £25.55 - £30.60
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

TALKS

The Legacy Of Guano
Thu at 6pm - 7.30pm,
Ikona Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Ray Mears: Tales Of Endurance
Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Richard Herring: Happy Now?
Tue at 6.45pm - 11pm, £15
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Mark Watson: I'm Not Here
Sun at 6.45pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational
Fri at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Comedy Carousel & The Real Food Canteen
Thu at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Ken Dodd: The Happiness Show
Sun at 7pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

CLUBBING

Andrew Weatherall
Sat - Sun at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Graeme Park
Fri at 9pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

OTHER EVENTS

Hobbycrafts
Thu from 9am
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair
Wed at 9.30am - 4pm, Thu at 9.30am - 4pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Crafts
Fri at 8.15am - 6.30pm, Sat at 8.15am - 6.30pm, Sun at 8.15am - 6.30pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

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Beautiful sound of Paul and Jacqui



Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott from The Beautiful South are reunited and will be playing in Birmingham tonight

THEIR comeback was one of the biggest stories of recent years. Erstwhile Beautiful South stars Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott have enjoyed a string of sell-out shows.

Their new album, *Wisdom, Laughter And Lines*, was released in October. And the duo are back on the road for a major UK tour, including the

O2 Academy in Birmingham tonight (Thursday).

Their second album together celebrates life's simple pleasures and mixes the political with the personal. Heaton and Abbott have created a formidable partnership. Their voices fit together like hand and glove.

Heaton has the ability to write songs about almost anything but has said he has always struggled to write "out and out" love songs.

"I always struggled to write about love. I did get better with things like *You Keep It All In* and *I'll Sail This Ship Alone* when I was in *The Beautiful South*. But I still struggled to write an out and out love song."

"It's funny considering that my two favourite songwriters are Smokey Robinson and Elvis Costello, who both specialise in writing songs about love. I could never nail it myself but I think that I have got a lot better."



Emotional Mister Tom

A POWERFUL stage production of popular children's novel *Goodnight Mister Tom*, in which a reclusive grump is given a new lease of life by a wartime evacuee, is coming to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

Director Angus Jackson has brought to life Michelle Magorian's emotional family-favourite story in an award-winning adaptation by David Wood that will be staged from Tuesday to Saturday, March 19.

The book, first published in 1981, was turned into a television film starring John Thaw in 1998.

This latest touring production also has star quality with popular RSC/National Theatre, radio and television actor David Troughton as Mister Tom.

David, son of 1960s Doctor Who Patrick Troughton, will be a familiar voice to fans of BBC Radio 4 soap *The Archers*, in which he plays Tony Archer. His TV roles have included Dr Buzzard in *A Very Peculiar Practice*, Ricky Hansen in *New Tricks*, Sgt Harvey in *Jericho* and Stan in *Sky's The Cafe*. He is also father of actors Sam and William Troughton, and of Warwickshire cricketer Jim Troughton.

Birmingham-raised director Jackson, whose theatre career began as an usher at the Symphony Hall, has also directed the Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of *Don Quixote*, with David Threlfall and Rufus Hound, which is currently being performed in Stratford-upon-Avon at The Swan Theatre.

New music acts worth discovering

THE pick of the new and emerging acts to be heard this week include Mancunian trio *Man Made* at Birmingham's The Ooback (near The Custard Factory in Digbeth) tonight. Tomorrow Grimes takes her *Acid Reign* Tour to the O2 Academy and Karl Monroe have a hometown headline slot at the O2 Institute.

Acclaimed Welsh songstress Gweno is at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath tomorrow and Albrighton singer-songwriter Richi Jones launches his *Into The Fire* EP at the same venue on Monday. Liverpool trio Elevant bring their sonic squall to The Actress and Bishop in the Jewellery Quarter on Saturday.

Old favourites are back on the circuit

AFTER five years Liverpool outfit The Coral are back with eighth album, *Distance Inbetween*, and a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute tonight (Thursday). The same venue hosts Reef tomorrow night.

Pauline Black brings The Selector to Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Saturday, the same night punk veterans The Stranglers play classic 1978 album *Black And White* at Birmingham O2 Academy. At Bilston's Robin 2, Fragile with Claire Hamill present a tribute to Yes tonight. Paul Young does his Tex-Mex thing with Los Pacaminos tomorrow and New York rockers Tyketto play Saturday.

Fame success is mirrored by actors

A HIGH energy new production of *Fame* by Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company is being staged at the city's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, March 19.

The musical, based on the hit 1980 movie, is set at New York's School of Performing Arts and follows four students through ups and downs from their first audition to graduation.

The production is also a swansong for talented Wolverhampton actors Luke Bennett and Liam Sargeant. Luke, 17, is off to stage school in London and 20-year-old Liam is to study English Language and Literature at Oxford University.

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Exhibitionism is the first international exhibition charting the story of The Rolling Stones, and will take over two entire floors of the prestigious Saatchi Gallery.

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It will feature original stage designs, rare guitars and instruments, iconic costumes, unseen video clips, audio tracks, personal diaries and album cover artwork.

There will also be collaborations and work by an array of artists, designers, musicians and writers – from Andy Warhol, Shepard Fairey, Alexander McQueen and Ossie Clark to Martin Scorsese.

Free time in London for shopping or sightseeing in the theatre district is also included. Here the shops, market stalls and eateries of Covent Garden are just a short walk away, and the famous stores on Oxford Street and Regent Street are close by too.

Price includes:

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Admission ticket to Exhibitionism - The Rolling Stones
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

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DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: APR 16, MAY 14, JUN 18, JUL 23, AUG 20



CHOICE



Phillip Schofield

You're Back in the Room (ITV, 8.30pm)
New series. Phillip Schofield returns with the comedy game show in which five must team up to win a potential £25,000 by completing apparently simple challenges. However, to claim their prize, the contestants must overcome the hypnotic trance they have been placed under by celebrity mesmerist Keith Barry. For this first edition, Phillip and Keith are joined by Andrea McLean, Sherrie Hewson, Linda Robson, Nadia Sawalha and Kaye Adams – the ladies of Loose Women – who will be pampered by the hypnotised contestants.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.00** BBC News. **5.10** Regional Programme. **5.20** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Everton v Chelsea (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 The Voice UK. The battle stages are now over, and the judges, Simon Cowell, Simon Cowell, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson each now have a complete team of would-be stars under their tutelage. The next challenge the contestants face is the first stage of the knock-outs, in which they must carefully select and perform a "killer song" that will elevate them above their team rivals, as the coaches whittle their eight chosen singers down to three.

8.45 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Retired publicans Ray and Diane from Chelmsford, Essex, could a wish-list that incorporates a number of items that celebrate their 40 years of marriage, and Shane Richie offers them a chance to win their dream prizes by answering questions in a selection of tricky categories. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gabby Roslin.

9.35 Casualty. The repercussions of the defibrillator accident continue to reverberate for Lofy, who must face the consequences of his actions by explaining the chain of events at a hearing. When the opportunity to help Lana arrives, he decides to skip his meeting and lend her a hand instead. Meanwhile, Cal hijacks an ambulance to take Ethan and his ailing mother to an old family holiday destination, and while there, the brothers decide to finally read the results from the genetics lab. Medical drama, starring Lee Mead.

10.25 BBC News: Weather.
10.45 Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League fixtures, including Norwich City v Manchester City at Carrow Road; National Lottery Update.

11.30 Film: The Ring. (2002) Horror remake, with Naomi Watts.
1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

8.10 Film: Station West. (1948) **9.40 Film:** The Master of Ballantrae. (1953) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.00** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **1.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **2.00 Film:** An Ideal Husband. (1999) Oscar Wilde comedy drama. **3.30** Coast. **4.15** The TV That Made Me. (R) **5.00** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R)

6.00 Gardeners' World. (R)
6.30 Queen Victoria's Children. The concluding episode focuses on the monarch's sons, examining how they struggled to assert themselves in the shadow of their father. It explores Victoria's difficult relationships with the eldest, Bertie, whose sexual indiscretions she blamed for having fatally weakened her husband's health, and Leopold, who put up the most determined effort to break free from his mother's control. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 Back in Time for the Weekend. The Ashby-Hawkins family discovers what the future might hold for people's free time. As they reflect on their time-travelling experience, they also reveal how living in the past has changed, how they feel about the present and their hopes for the future. The family have some robotic housework help, and Steph and Rob try a futuristic gym fail, "Immersive Fitness." Meanwhile, Seth embraces some cutting-edge technology that takes him away from using screens, and Daisy tries a new-age camera that records her day without cutting her off from her friends. Last in the series. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring camps the platoon in the middle of a firing range, forcing Corporal Jones to make a desperate effort to raise the alarm. Starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Carmichael. (R)

9.00 Stag. Johnners' stags have been reduced to four, and the survivors realise they must make a final stand if they are to avoid sharing their friends' grisly fate. Last in the series.

10.00 Film: The Talented Mr Ripley. (1999) Anthony Minghella's thriller, with Matt Damon.

12.10 Line of Duty. (R) **2.10 Film:** The Salton Sea. (2002) **3.45** This Is BBC Two. **5.45** Great British Garden Revival. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Wales (Kick-off 4.00pm).

Coverage of the second match from the fourth and penultimate round of fixtures, which comes from Twickenham. An injury-hit Wales recorded a memorable 28-25 victory at this venue when the sides last met during the 2015 World Cup. England held a 16-9 half-time lead, but their opponents produced a fine second half display to turn the match around and eventually qualify for the knockout stages at the hosts' expense. However, England made a strong start to this campaign and will be hopefully of gaining revenge in this contest.

6.30 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The duo are joined by Craig David for the big finale of this week's show. Mel B interviews dogsitters in I'm a Celebrity. Get Out of Me Earl, while Little Ant and Dec chat to Jennifer Lawrence and her The Hunger Games co-stars. Another lucky player has the chance to win all the items advertised in the break.

8.30 You're Back in the Room. New series. Phillip Schofield returns to the game show in which five strangers are hypnotised by Keith Barry, then asked to complete simple tasks in the hope of winning £25,000.

9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. Actress Glenn Close, comedy actor and writer Marlon Wayans and X-Files star Gillian Anderson take a seat on Jonathan's sofa.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.
10.45 Film: Moonraker. (1979) Spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

1.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.55** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** MSA British Rally Championship. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Wolverhampton.

4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Come Dine with Me. On the final day of the competition in south-east London it's part-time event organiser Gina's turn to throw a dinner party. She rolls out an evening of fine dining inspired by her love of cookery courses, but her culinary prowess fails to make an impact on Vincenzo, as he reveals he already ate dinner at home due to his belief that women can't cook. Meanwhile, Leah reveals a surprising beauty secret from her youth during the main course, before a self-penned poem from the host brings tears to David's eyes, and the winner is revealed. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Crufts 2016. Clare Balding hosts further coverage from the second day of the prestigious annual dog show, which this year is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Presenting live from the NEC in Birmingham, Clare is joined by Supertv Professor Noel Fitzpatrick to discuss advances in the field of canine health, and answer viewers' questions. Plus, the host introduces judging in the Working and Pastoral groups.

9.00 Lee Evans – Monsters. The energetic stand-up star rails against the annoyances of modern life, in a performance recorded at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham in 2014. Lee's routine sees him tackling the selfie phenomenon, the problems associated with getting older, and the numerous ways he tries to keep his long-suffering wife happy.

10.00 Film: Riddick. (2013) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel and Katee Sackhoff.

12.20 Film: Kick-Ass. (2010) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Ultimate Dealer. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.45** The Fairly OddParents. **9.20** The Saturday Show Live. **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Pests Who Hate Vets. (R) **2.15** Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack. (R) **3.15** 90 Cats and Counting: Cat Crazy. (R) **4.15** Kitten Impossible. (R) **5.10** 41 Dogs in a 3-Bed Semi. (R)

6.10 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world. (R)

7.10 5 News Weekend.

7.15 World War II in Colour. The edition focuses on the final days of Hitler and the Third Reich as German forces were surrounded by Soviet troops from the east and the Allies' advance from the west. (R)

8.10 The Gadget Show. Oris and Jon take on delivery service Amazon Prime using a selection of the latest transport technology, and mobility scooter inventor Colin Furze reveals his latest projects. (R)

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, including Huddersfield Town v Burnley.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present highlights from the League One and League Two, including Burton Albion v Fleetwood Town at the Pirelli Stadium.

10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Stabler and Benson investigate the death of a 17-year-old girl and discover a suspect in the case may have been deliberately passing on the HIV virus to his sexual partners. (R)

11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Benson and Stabler have to tread carefully when they investigate the deaths of a wealthy couple and find themselves playing a game of politics and double bluff. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Carry on Caravanning. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.20** HouseBusters. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Human Planet **8.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **9.00** Trapped **10.40** From Andy Pandy to Zebbed: The Golden Age of Children's TV **11.40** Duets at the BBC **12.40** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **1.40** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.20** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.55** Virtuoso Violinists at the BBC **3.55** Close

ITV2
11.10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.45** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.40** Scorpion **2.35** Film: Nancy Drew (2007) **4.40** Catchphrase **5.45** Film: Legally Blonde (2001) **7.40** Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990) **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** Ibiza Weekender **1.50** Beowulf: Return to the Sheldlands **2.40** Rixton: The Hot Desk **2.50** Teleshopping

ITV3
6.55 Midsomer Murders **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.05** Blue Murder **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.45 Storage Wars **12.45** Live Snooker: World Grand Prix. The opening semi-final. **5.15** Storage Wars **5.45** Storage Wars: Texas **6.45** Live Snooker: World Grand Prix. The second semi-final. **11.15** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Mexico City ePrix. **1.15** Hell on Wheels **2.15** Motorway Patrol **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Jump: The Final **1.05** The Goldbergs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Limitless (2011) A failed writer acquires a drug that increases his brain power, but his new abilities attract dangerous attention. Sci-fi thriller, starring Bradley Cooper. **11.05** Tattoo Fixers **12.05** Gogglebox **2.15** The 100 **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.45** Rules of Engagement **4.55** Revenge

Film4
11.00 New in Town (2009) **1.00** Tooth Fairy (2010) **3.00** Five Children and It (2004) **4.45** Home Alone 3 (1997) **6.55** Admission (2013) **9.00** 2 Guns (2013) Two undercover agents become fugitives after a disastrous sting, but each thinks the other is a real criminal. Action adventure, with Denzel Washington. **11.10** Magic Magic (2013) Premiere. A woman suffers from insomnia while on holiday in Chile, causing her grip on reality to weaken as she succumbs to paranoia. Thriller, with Juno Temple and Michael Cera. **1.15** Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) **3.05** Close

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CHOICE



Nimesh Patel

Indian Summers (Channel 4, 9pm)

New series. The drama series set in 1930s colonial India returns, picking up the story three years on from the first series. The British viceroy is seriously injured in a terrorist attack. Aafin is suspected of being involved and tries to keep his double life as a nationalist spy a secret. He discovers Alice has now married an Englishman, but their feelings for each other remain unresolved. Cynthia pushes Ralph to advance his career, but Madeleine has other plans.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 8.15 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 The TV That Made Me. 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.05 Songs of Praise. 5.40 Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 BBC News.

7.00 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Adam Henson visits Aberystwyth University to meet students who are working towards a career in farming, and takes a look at some features on young farmers from past episodes. Highlights include Matt Baker meeting twin sisters looking to break into farming, Helen Skelton chatting to a farmer who became the world darts champion, and Radio 1 DJs Scott Mills and Chris Stark working at Vauxhall City Farm. Including Weather for The Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents an episode focused on Indian art and culture from the Neasden Temple in North London, revealing the connections between British and Indian history. Among the artefacts being valued are ceremonial robes used in the Delhi Durbar, a ring given to a boy by a princess, a Rolls Royce made for the Maharajah of Jodhpur and a bracelet found in a children's toy box that turns out to have a surprising background.

9.00 The Night Manager. Pine gets involved in an arms deal, but his relationship with Jed jeopardises his cover. Burr begins to suspect that Roper has been buying arms from the British government.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's only Premier League fixture, which was Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur at Villa Park.

11.00 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the sixth round, including this afternoon's clash between Manchester United and West Ham United.

11.30 Film: It's a Wonderful Afterlife. (2010) Supernatural comedy, starring Shabana Azmi.

12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 An Island Parish. (R) 7.15 This Farming Life. (R) 8.15 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.45 Countryfile. (R) 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.15 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 11.45 Winter Youth Olympic Games. 12.15 MOTD Extra. 1.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.00 Escape to the Continent. (R) 3.00 Film: Strictly Ballroom. (1992) Australian dance comedy, starring Paul Mercurio. 4.30 Gymnastics World Cup.

6.00 Flog It! Mark Stacey and Adam Partridge dance comedy, starring Paul Mercurio. 4.30 Gymnastics World Cup.

7.00 Who's the Boss? (R)

8.00 Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge. Part two of two. The naturalist reaches the peak of one of Venezuela's tepui mountains, before joining a party of Italian cavers as they venture into the unexplored caverns within. Inside, they discover strange wildlife and evidence of the geological forces that give the tepuis their unusual shape. Finally, the team returns to the ground by abseiling down the Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall.

9.00 Let's Play Darts for Sport Relief 2016. Gabby Logan hosts the final of the charity darts challenge from the Lakeside, Frimley Green, in which professional players team up with celebrities. She is joined by all the competitors to take part in the earlier rounds, who look back on their performances and the highs and lows of the tournament. Last in the series.

10.00 Thirteen. Ivy is put under pressure to relive her ordeal, but her responses make Merchant suspicious that she is lying. She turns to Tim for support, only to suffer a crushing betrayal.

11.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. Prosecutor Marcia Clark faces negative feedback, while differing goals divide the defence team as preliminary hearings and arduous jury selection get underway. (R)

11.50 Film: The Magdalene Sisters. (2002) Drama, starring Geraldine McEwan, Anne-Marie Duff and Eileen Walsh.

1.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.40 Holy City. (R) 3.40 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockout Street. 6.15 Bottom Knockout Street. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.50 Sooty. (R) 7.05 Super 4. (R) 7.15 Looped. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. 8.30 Scrambled! Bear Grylls Survival School. 9.05 Scrambled! The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 9.25 Formula E Highlights. 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 ITV News: Weather. 12.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.45 River Monsters. (R) 2.45 Big Star's Little Star. (R) 3.45 Off Their Rockers. (R) 4.15 Film: For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. Rheda escapes from her captors in Bregan, only to find that Abreacan's army is closing in on her kingdom, and he has gathered many allies to help him in his plan to take over Herot. A last minute intervention from Slean may ward off disaster, but Rheda realises she must make a great sacrifice to persuade an old foe to help her.

8.00 The Story of Cats. How cats went from wild predators to domestic pets, exploring why humans are inclined to find kittens cute and how future generations of cats may lose their hunting instincts.

9.00 Doctor Thorne. Sir Roger falls seriously ill and is likely to die soon. His son arrives in town, and to Dr Thorne's horror, takes a liking to Mary. Miss Dunstable urges Frank to follow his heart.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 Houdini & Doyle. New series. Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini help police investigate the case of a nun allegedly killed by a ghost.

11.15 Six Nations Highlights. Action from the fourth round of the championship, with highlights of England v Wales at Twickenham, Ireland v Italy at the Aviva Stadium and Scotland v France at Murrayfield.

12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.30 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) Family comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon. 3.20 Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief. (2010) 5.40 Channel 4 News.

6.00 The Secret Life of the Zoo.

Cameras follow Chester Zoo's four new fledgling Humboldt penguins who are being brought up apart from the main colony until they're old enough to compete for fish in the main pod. They're keen to make a break for it and join the adults, but when they're finally free to go they have other ideas. Elsewhere, Niall the chimpanzee keeper has known chimp Boris for 44 years. When the ape captures a moorhen chick, Niall must use his powers of persuasion to negotiate the safe release of his hostage. (R)

7.00 Crufts 2016. Clare Balding hosts coverage of the final day of the 125th annual dog show from the NEC in Birmingham. Highlights of the day's main arena events include the winner of the Friends for Life competition, the Fyball and International Agility finals, judging of the Terrier and Hound groups and the announcement of Best in Show 2016. Plus, discussion of canine health and welfare with from Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, Kate Bevan and Nick Blayney. Last in the series.

9.00 Indian Summers. New series. The drama series set in 1930s colonial India returns, picking up the story three years on from the first series. The British viceroy is seriously injured in a terrorist attack. Aafin is suspected of being involved and tries to keep his double life as a nationalist spy a secret. He discovers Alice has now married an Englishman, but their feelings for each other remain unresolved. Cynthia pushes Ralph to advance his career, but Madeleine has other plans.

10.00 Film: Slumdog Millionaire. (2008) Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning drama, with Dev Patel.

12.20 The Last Leg. (R) 1.20 Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) 2.15 Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.45 Ticky Toc. (R) 6.55 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.25 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.35 Little Princess. (R) 7.50 Pip Ahoy! (R) 8.05 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.50 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 9.05 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.20 Jelly Jam. (R) 9.35 LazyTown. (R) 9.55 The Fairly OddParents. 10.30 The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) 11.30 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) 12.00 Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. 2.00 Film: Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son. (2011) 4.15 Film: Flubber. (1997) Children's comedy remake, starring Robin Williams.

6.00 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world.

7.00 Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring the antics of budgies and other birds, from flying fails to performing parrots and real-life angry birds.

8.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. Simon Pegg joins one of this episode's contestants on stage to assist with an illusion involving a wind-up watch. Plus, a selection of card tricks, including one that uses a violin.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Jonah Hex. (2010) Premiere. A disgruntled bounty hunter able to communicate with spirits of the dead is captured by the Government who offer him a deal. In return for his freedom, he must defeat a plan to take over the country that is being masterminded by the man who killed his family and left him horribly scarred. Fantasy Western, starring Josh Brolin.

10.20 Film: Angels & Demons. (2009) Academic adventurer Robert Langdon is called in by the Vatican to search for four kidnapped men in line to become Pope. Thriller sequel, starring Tom Hanks.

12.50 Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) 1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Benefits by the Sea: Jaywick. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Jigs & Wigs: The Extreme World of Irish Dancing 7.30 What Do Artists Do All Day? 8.00 Pappano's Classical Voices 9.00 Horizon: Secrets of the Solar System 10.00 The Sky at Night 10.30 Film: In the House (2012) 12.10 Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza 1.10 A Blackpool Big Band Boogie: Jools Holland and His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra 2.10 The Story of British Pathe 3.10 What Do Artists Do All Day? 3.40 Close

ITV2

11.55 Take Me Out 12.55 Film: Nancy Drew (2007) 3.00 The Inbetweeners Huk (2009) 5.05 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 6.45 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) 9.00 Ibiza Weekend 10.00 Family Guy 10.30 Boredertown 11.00 Family Guy 12.00 American Dad! 12.55 The Cleveland Show 1.55 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.15 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.50 Wycliffe 12.55 Lewis 7.00 Midsomer Murders 9.00 Carry On Forever 10.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium 11.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Donny Osmond 12.00 Like Father, Like Son 2.45 May the Best House Win 4.25 On the Buses 5.20 Judge Judy

ITV4

12.45 Live Snooker: World Grand Prix. The opening session of the final. 5.15 Storage Wars 6.45 Live Snooker: World Grand Prix. The second session of the final. 11.15 Film: Above the Law (1988) 1.20 Ax Men 2.20 Motorway Patrol 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4

12.30 The Goldbergs 2.30 Film: Big (1988) 4.35 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 12.00 Rude Tube 1.10 Virtually Famous 2.00 The Aliens 2.55 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.40 Hollyoaks

Film4

1.00 Aliens in the Attic (2009) 2.40 Unidentified Flying Oddball (1979) 4.30 Rat Race (2001) 6.50 The Three Musketeers (2011) 9.00 A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) John McClane goes to Moscow and helps his CIA agent son stop the Russian Mob from stealing nuclear weapons. Action adventure sequel, with Bruce Willis. 10.50 Pusher (2012) A drug dealer ends up in debt to a sadistic gangster and faces a race against time to pay back the money. Crime thriller remake, starring Richard Coyle. 12.35 Underworld: Awakening (2012) 2.15 Adam & Paul (2004) 4.00 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

A Mother Betrayed, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Five years after her husband is run off the road and killed by a mysterious driver, the head of a prosperous architectural firm decides to remarry. However, she's unaware that her new spouse has a devious plan to steal her daughter, her sanity and even her life. Psychological thriller, starring Lynn Collins, Adam Kaufman and Joanna Cassidy. (2015)

TUESDAY

After All These Years, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman learns her husband intends to leave her for another woman shortly before their wedding anniversary. She goes on the run after becoming a suspect when he is found murdered, intending to identify the real killer with the aid of her friends and an old flame. Mystery, starring Wendie Malick and Gregory Harrison. (2013)

WEDNESDAY

Damaged, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A high-school teacher's life is turned upside down when a new student moves into the area and they develop a mutual attraction for each other, leading to a string of undesirable events. Thriller, starring Chris Klein, Merritt Patterson and Tasya Teles. (2014)



For Your Eyes Only, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

THURSDAY

Nightmare 911, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A police 911 operator is fired after mistaking a real murder for a prank call, and feeling guilty for allowing the crime to happen, she sets out to find the killer herself before he or she strikes again. Thriller, starring Fiona Gubelmann, Scott Bailey and John Lee Ames. (2015)

FRIDAY

For Your Eyes Only, ITV, 11.10pm

James Bond goes in search of a British weapons system aboard a sunken vessel before it falls into the hands of enemies who will use it to deactivate all Western submarines. Unfortunately, his mission is hindered by a crossbow-toting woman out to avenge her father's murder. Spy thriller, starring Roger Moore, Topol, Julian Glover, Carole Bouquet, Jill Bennett and Lynn-Holly Johnson. (1981)

Famous faces do their bit for a good cause

It may not be quite as big as Comic Relief and Children in Need, but Sport Relief can claim to be TV's most painful telethon.

In the years since its inception in 2002, athletes and celebrities have been falling over themselves (sometimes literally) to push their bodies to the limits while raising massive amounts of cash.

In 2006, David Walliams's swim across the Channel grabbed the headlines, and he's since swam the Strait of Gibraltar and the River Thames.

Groups of celebrities have accomplished feats such as climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End, while Christine Bleakley, Davina McCall and Helen Skelton have all accomplished amazing events.

But the most impressive of all is Eddie Izzard. He ran 43 marathons in 51 days in 2010 – this time around he's been attempting to complete 27 such runs in as many days, to mark the number of years Nelson Mandela spent in prison.

Oh yes, and he's been doing it in South Africa, where it has often been 30 degrees by 10am. We'll get to see how he did in this programme, as well as how much money he raised.

Other famous faces who have been pushing themselves to the limits include Radio 1's Greg James, who completed five triathlons in five days in the middle of winter, while Jo Brand walked across the country from Hull to Liverpool, in often appalling weather.

This evening, at east London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, leading lights from the worlds of sport, music and entertainment will gather to see how more athletes and celebrities can inspire us to hand over our cash.

Top of the bill is Michael Crawford, who will reprise his 1970s role as calamity-prone Frank Spencer in a one-off Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em sketch that will see the hapless character in a number of calamitous escapades culminating in a chance meeting with cycling legend Bradley Wiggins.

Steve Redgrave and Andrew Flintoff don their kits once more for an edition

of the sports challenge Clash of the Titans. They will lead teams that will also include Darren Gough, Paddy McGuinness, Harry Judd, Sophie Raworth and Hugh Dennis.

The show will also feature live music performances, including the first performance of the official charity single, while famous faces including Danny Dyer, Marvin and Rochelle Humes show how the money raised could help change lives both here in the UK and around the world.

Members of the public have also been encouraged to take part in the Sport Relief Mile, Swimathon and Cycle which will see people all over the UK raising money through sponsorship from their friends and family.

But if putting on your tracksuit and trainers and spending a few minutes huffing and puffing in your local park isn't your cup of tea, then settle down in front of the TV for five and a half hours of entertainment – and make sure you have your credit card handy so you can pledge money to some of the worthy causes featured in between the fun and games.



Fundraising fun, Sport Relief 2016, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Only Connect Sport Relief Special

BBC2, 8.30pm

When it comes to taxing the old grey matter, Victoria Coren Mitchell's quiz could win gold if there was a cerebral gymnastics contest at the Olympics. So it's a good job some of the smartest folks in the media and showbusiness have been assembled for this charity edition of the contest. Hugh Dennis, musician Julian Lloyd Webber and writer Lynne Truss take on writer and comedian David Baddiel, poet John Cooper Clarke and novelist Philippa Gregory. Can they make the connection between a series of eclectic clues? Will Lynne's team play, win and leave, or will they be eclipsed by David and company? And just what is the connection between Donkey, Xanthus, Balaam's ass and Mister Ed? There's only one way to find out.

TUESDAY

Inside Obama's White House

BBC2, 9pm

For millions of folks, religious or otherwise, Easter is synonymous with food, whether it's hot cross buns or novelty chocolate eggs. Taking a break from her Great British Bake Off duties, Mary Berry takes a closer look at the connection between faith and food

at one of the most important times on the Christian calendar. And if you're lacking inspiration on what to rustle up over the Easter holidays, then rest assured that the beloved baker will be sharing some of her own favourite recipes, including Simnel cake, roast lamb, and hot cross buns. In episode one, Mary discovers the traditions followed by diverse British families and communities during Lent and Good Friday, and the food that unites them.

WEDNESDAY

Brendan O'Carroll: My Family at War

BBC2, 9pm

Writer and comedian Brendan O'Carroll tells the story of the Irish Easter Rising, in which 1,600 Irish rebels took over the centre of Dublin in Easter week 1916. Despite overwhelming odds, the rebels held out against the forces of the British Empire for six days until they were driven into submission. Three of the rebels were O'Carroll's uncles, and on the centenary of the revolt, he looks into the part his family played in it, and explores how the Rising signalled the birth of today's Republic of Ireland.



Brendan O'Carroll: My Family at War, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY

The Secret History of My Family

BBC2, 8pm

The documentary charting social history by exploring different family trees continues with the story of Lavinia and Florence, two Victorian women from opposite ends of the social scale who were

brought together by domestic violence. One was desperate to feed her six children in 1880s

London, the other came from a lavish county home and ventured into the slum to

help a fellow mother. The film tells the saga of a woman from the workhouse

whose descendant ended up at Eton and a family from the landed

gentry who threw off the burden of their past.

FRIDAY

Unreported World

Channel 4, 7.30pm

New series. For the first of the programme's 31st series of hard-hitting reports, Marcel Theroux and his director Victoria Bell head to Malaysia, where the government has declared transgender people to be enemies of Islam. The pair meets the transwomen who are being forced to live in what human rights groups claim is one of the worst places in the world to be transgender. The duo also accompany members of the country's religious police force as officers crack down on anything they consider to be un-Islamic.

NCIS

Channel 5, 9.55pm

The NCIS team is assigned to a joint terrorism task force by the Secretary when a Moscow-born scientist who it is believed may have been targeted by the Russians for selling state secrets, is found dead. The trail appears to lead to a friend of Sofia's, another scientist who worked for Russia and who may have succumbed to professional jealousy. However, when she too is found dead, the team discovers the hallmarks of Sergei Mishnev, the terrorist who nearly killed Gibbs. Starring Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette.

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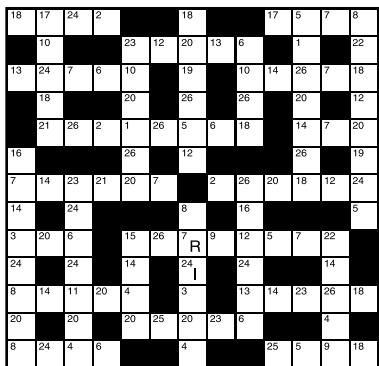
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

L D U B S H P V K Z O J T
M Y N W C Q I G E X R A F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

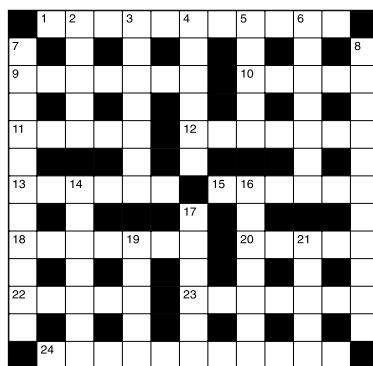
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Make up the deficiency with a denture, perhaps (5,3,3)
9. Unvarying dress (7)
10. A current issue in a letter (5)
11. Tree, evidently of some antiquity (5)
12. Housing row (7)
13. Climbs and balances (6)
15. Doesn't sound it, but it's hot (6)
18. When an I.O.U. runs out it could well be (7)
20. A papal order to cause dismay (5)
22. Insist on having things just right (5)
23. Noisy new trio love us (7)
24. Unemployed jester who won't let anyone take him in (7,4)

Down

2. I am taken in by a fat Scottish landowner (5)
3. Southern company press for means of punishment (7)
4. A motto put out for the vegetarian (6)
5. A duck I'd always put out (5)
6. Not a sunny greeting (3,4)
7. Odd way in which the debtor finds himself (5,6)
8. One who thinks of things first? (11)
14. A stirring instruction to the player (7)
16. Intercept an order to execute? (4,3)
17. It swoops down on fish, so rises with its quarry (6)
19. Go beyond an alfresco celebration (5)
21. In short, a final result of a snap decision (5)



Quick Clues:

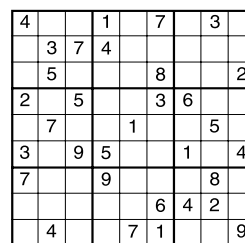
Across

1. Stormy (11)
9. Artist (7)
10. Earlier (5)
11. Fat (5)
12. White ant (7)
13. Pact (6)
15. Spent (6)
18. Disregard (7)
20. Evade (5)
22. Characteristic (5)
23. Mohammedan (7)
24. Warlike (11)

Down

2. The pick (5)
3. Long-suffering (7)
4. Elf (6)
5. Superior (5)
6. Use (7)
7. Favourable moment (11)
8. Impiety (11)
14. Etch (7)
16. Violinist (7)
17. Cord (6)
19. Praise (5)
21. Devil (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	9	1	3	6	4	2
3	6	4	2	9	7	5	8
2	8	1	5	4	7	9	3
6	1	5	3	4	9	2	7
4	9	2	7	8	5	3	1
7	3	8	6	2	1	9	5
8	4	6	9	5	3	1	2
9	2	7	8	1	6	4	3
1	5	3	4	7	2	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Straight; 5 Stud; 9 Once; 10 Interest; 11 Final; 12 Epitaph; 13 Under employed; 18 Rest-cure; 19 Toss; 20 Blemish; 21 Forge; 22 Date; 23 Progress. Down: 2 Tension; 3 Average; 4 Hunger-marcher; 6 Therapy; 7 Ditched; 8 Denial; 13 Unrobbed; 14 Descent; 15 Recoil; 16 Outdoor; 17 Ensigns. QUICK - Across: 1 Deletion; 5 Spin; 9 Wasp; 10 Striking; 11 Quiet; 12 Instant; 13 Senselessness; 18 Outright; 19 Step; 20 Fiction; 21 Grain; 22 Dusk; 23 Resemble. Down: 2 Erasure; 3 Express; 4 Outside chance; 6 Primate; 7 Negates; 8 Kisses; 13 Scoffed; 14 Notices; 15 Elicit; 16 Nostrum; 17 Special.

Quiz

1. On which date is St George's Day?
2. Of which island group is Jura a member?
3. Who painted A Bigger Splash in 1967?
4. Which disease is also called varicella?
5. Who founded the Grey Friars in 1209?
6. Which part of the body is affected by impetigo?
7. With which instrument is Fritz Kreisler associated?
8. Who played vet James Herriot in the TV series All Creatures Great and Small?
9. In which US state is Las Vegas?
10. In geometry, what do 60 minutes make?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Balliol; 2 Bruce Kent; 3 Russian; 4 Molière; 5 John Prescott; 6 Miklós Rózsa; 7 Lilil Folks; 8 Jeremy Thorpe; 9 Kurt Vonnegut Jr; 10 James Baker.

Niner: REVOLTING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

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gives a vagrant,
gives a rotter.



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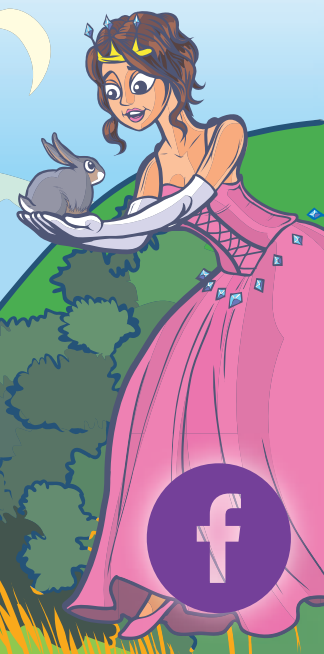
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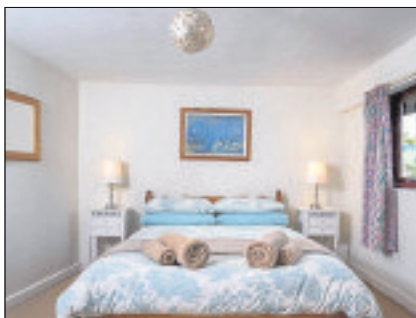
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The Counting House, set into the hillside by the canal

Counting our blessings for such a superb stay in Brecon Beacons

AAH, the Brecon Beacons. Visions of beautiful barren mountains where only the most dedicated hikers and bikers go with their backpacks and hi-vis vests – right? Wrong! So wrong...

Never have I been so impressed with one particular area and all it has to offer. The pretty towns – even in February; the friendliness of people; and the stunning wildlife and scenery, even if you don't make it to the top of one of those mountains which are a constant backdrop.

Brecon Beacons Holiday Cottages was established 30 years ago by owner, Elizabeth Daniel who has grown the business and built a fantastic selection of unique properties for hire, be they barn conversions, stone cottages, manor houses, townhouses or quirky listed buildings.

With an emphasis on providing as much local knowledge of the area they are obvi-

By Graeme Andrew

ously so proud of, the team are always on hand to offer any tips and advice about what is going on around them. There is also network of local businesses and services which can be used at a discount, via various vouchers available.

We stayed at a stunning little cottage called the Counting House in the picturesque village of Talybont-on-Usk, with both the River Usk and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal running through it.

Built partly on stilts, the Counting House dates back to 1814 situated at the end of the Brynorchard tramroad. It is therefore a grade II listed building, predominantly made of stone rubble, with a Welsh slate roof, and has various delightful features including gothic archways and upside down accommodation offering spectacular views over the canal and the Vale of Usk into the distance.

It has just been renovated and offers modern comforts you would expect from any cottage in any

part of the country – just don't expect the internet and mobile phone service you are used to! My wife and I unwittingly shared these out. My phone could get texts and calls and she was able to log onto her email account!

A first morning walk along the canal was just the ticket for getting some of that fine country air into our lungs, with a gentle unwinding session carried on in one of the fine hostels Talybont had to offer. We plumped for the White Hart Inn. Truth be told, it was the nearest to our cottage, so not too far for us to stagger back afterwards! But the roaring open fire, lovely Rhymney's ale and fine food certainly won us over.

We had days out in Abergavenny and Brecon, each with their own attractions, and each with a stunning mountain as a backdrop – Sugar Loaf and Pen Y Fan, respectively.

Abergavenny is steeped in ancient history and there is plenty to keep the enthusiast interested, but for me the Linda Vista Gardens, with its collection of all sorts of trees, was

fascinating – the London Plane, never heard of it, but my goodness, it is an awesome sight.

Brecon has real character and a military feel, across the years, with links to the Zulu Wars, among many others. The cathedral is truly imposing, both inside and out, and there is a lovely walk which takes you down to the water's edge where the Honddu and Usk rivers meet.

We also managed to take in Tretower Castle and Court, which is a quirky stop-off and again something for the history enthusiast.

We came away from our stay in Brecon Beacons realising that we had only scratched the surface. A comfortable two-hour drive away, with something to offer the visitor across all seasons, one day we will make it to the top of one of those mountains and wonder at the beauty of one of Britain's most unspoiled national parks. But when it's a bit warmer!

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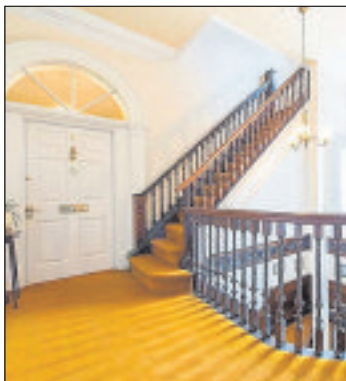
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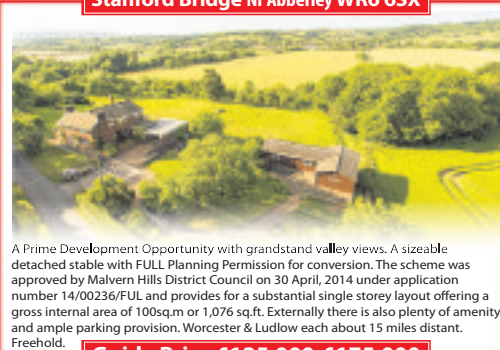
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Guide Price £250,000-£300,000

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Farm Road Stourport DY13 9DQ



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Nowadays, the dynamic MPV for active people counts among its strengths maximum variability, state-of-the-art technologies and assistance systems, powerful and efficient drives and universal connectivity. Added to that – in true SEAT fashion – is exceptionally high quality and perfection combined with excellent value-for-money.

The new SEAT Alhambra 20th anniversary special edition unites unique design features with an extensive package of technologies. The edition is immediately

recognisable by its 17-inch alloy wheels in high-gloss black, which are complemented perfectly by the xenon headlamps, the tinted side and rear windows and the large panorama glass sliding roof. The interior is defined by distinctive, dark Alcantara upholstery with stitching in light corn silk. Those seated in the first row of the Alhambra 20th anniversary edition benefit from sports seats with massage function.

The technology package is equally extensive. Keyless entry opens the door to one of the most innovative vehicles in this segment – and even the tailgate can be operated hands-free by foot gesture. Like the tailgate, the two sliding doors also open and close electrically.

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Maximum variability, state-of-the-art technology and assistance systems, powerful and efficient drives and universal connectivity

Full Link smartphone connection for perfect connectivity.

SEAT is the only company that designs, develops, manufactures and markets cars in Spain. A member of the Volkswagen Group, the multinational has its headquarters in Barcelona, exporting more than 80 per cent of its vehicles, and is present in over 75 countries. In 2015 SEAT achieved worldwide sales of 400,000 units, the highest figure since 2007.

SEAT Group employs more than 14,000 at its three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where

it manufactures the successful Ibiza and Leon. Additionally, the company produces the Alhambra in Portugal, the Mii in Slovakia and the Toledo in the Czech Republic.

The multinational has a technical centre, which operates as a knowledge hub that brings together 1,000 engineers who are the driving force behind innovation for Spain's largest industrial investor in R&D. In line with its declared commitment to environmental protection, SEAT undertakes and bases its activity on sustainability, namely the reduction of CO2 emissions and energy efficiency.



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Refreshed and new model in i20 range

By Matt Joy

Hyundai's popular i20 hatchback has been refreshed for 2016 with a downsized petrol engine and a new model in the range.

Forget those fancy European brands you think you know; when it comes to making a solid private purchase, the Hyundai i20 is about as sensible as you can be – and that's a good thing. Smart, well-equipped, good value and offering a slick driving experience, it's hard to fault, but that hasn't stopped Hyundai giving the i20 an update for 2016.

Most importantly, it's now available with a brand-new three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine, in two power outputs with impressive claims for fuel consumption and performance. Equipment upgrades have been made across the range while there's a whole new model too; the i20 Active is designed to be a compact crossover, with a 20mm increase in ride height, unique bumpers, roof rails and a rear spoiler.

The standard i20 is a neat and inoffensive piece of design, but in the new Active form, there's a little bit more going on. The extra detail in the front bumper gives the front end some additional presence, as does the increased ride height. It's not as distinct from its conventional sibling as some rival offerings, but it will snare some buyers that find the regular five-door too conventional.

Hyundai's image has also come a remarkable way in a matter of years. Its badge carries as much weight as many European rivals and in cars like the i20 and Santa Fe, it is producing cars with distinction.

Comfortable

There's no sheet metal changes for 2016, so the i20 keeps its exterior and interior dimensions. Those seated up front should find it easy to get comfortable. Although the seats aren't huge, they offer useful support and the low-set dashboard means the view out is good. In the rear, it's a little tighter for space with headroom at a premium for those near six feet tall, but legroom is good for the class as is the boot space.

While the Active model has suspension raised by 20mm, its effect on the i20's behaviour is minimal. The ride quality is good on the vast majority of surfaces, with only particularly poor surfaces creating significant intrusion into the cabin. On the flip side, the handling is safe and secure if unremarkable, but the steering is light and accurate plus the raised ride height doesn't make the i20 Active suddenly heel over in corners.

What really marks out the 2016 i20 however is that new powerplant. Three-cylinder turbo engines used to be the preserve of Japanese Kei cars but this Hyundai offering is a gem. The on-paper performance might seem modest, but this belies how perky it feels. It will rev quite happily without significant engine noise, but better still is the generous torque which allows you to be lazy with the gearshifts and still make good progress. Despite that, the official figures are impressive with 58.9mpg combined and 110g/km of CO₂, while the 120PS version feels no quicker on the road.

Go for the i20 Active model and you get 17-inch alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, DAB radio and rear parking sensors for your £15,225, and this comes with the 100PS 1.0-litre turbo engine only. The regular i20 starts at £10,995 for the S model and even this comes with electrically adjusted and heated door mirrors, height adjustable driver's seat, reach and rake adjustable steering wheel and an MP3-compatible stereo with USB and auxiliary inputs. The top-spec Premium Nav SE with the top diesel engine is only £17,700, so the i20 is impressive value across the range.

If the i20 Active is big enough to suit your lifestyle then it makes an exceptionally strong case as a private purchase. It's excellent value for money whatever specification you choose, while the Active model not only combines the best engine choice but also adds in a little more ruggedness. It's an ideal first car while older folk will find the raised driving position a useful boon too. There are more sparkling drives in the class but for many drivers this is of lesser importance than value and equipment.

This car summed up in a single word: Surprising

If this car was a: movie, you'd be impressed beyond your expectations, but also tempted to keep it a secret.

TESTED

Hyundai i20 Active 1.0 100PS, £15,225

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit producing 99bhp and 126lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Five-speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels

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Ibiza can prove to be a bit of a bargain

By Ian Donaldson

CLOSE your eyes and you could be driving a Volkswagen or an Audi ... or a Skoda, come to that.

There's the same slick precision about the way everything works; the result of sinking billions of euros in development costs in budgets decided long before the VW Group's recent woes raised their expensive heads.

Now open your eyes (best do it soon if the car is moving) and you'll discover the badge reads SEAT, from the Spanish outpost of the world's biggest – or second biggest – car maker.

That means it's supposed to slip into a VW Group portfolio where Audi equals posh, Volkswagen is solidly middle class, Skoda is all about value (not cheap prices any more) and SEAT has a touch of Latin zing.

Take the car tested here. It's the latest and mildly modified version of the popular Ibiza, uniquely offered in cars of this size as a three-door hatch (the SC), a more practical five-door or the ST, for Sports Tourer, or what you and I call an estate.

Prices start at precisely £10,000 and adding a couple of doors costs £450 but the boot space stays the same. Opt for the estate and it's a slightly longer car with a much bigger load area and a price hike of £1,150 over the three-door Ibiza.

The refreshed range looks much the same as before, with only LED driving lights on dearer models and a new choice of colours and alloy wheels to give the game away. Inside, there's a new steering wheel and new look dials and trim.

Looker

So, not much to talk about there, but the Ibiza always was a bit of a looker in a class where stodgy rules more strongly than smart.

Rather more happens in the bits that matter most, from new steering to refreshed range of eight engines, starting with a 75 horsepower three-cylinder petrol unit and topping out with 192 when the new 146mph Cupra version arrives.

No price for that yet, but the 1.2 litre CONNECT model on test costs £14,170 as a three-door SC. Diesels (with only a single 1.4 litre on offer in a class that is wildly tilted towards petrol) cost from £16,885 and come with a company tax efficient 95g/km rating and theoretical 78.5mpg average consumption.

SEAT is pushing the connectivity of this latest Ibiza, meaning that if you choose the right model, or add an upgrade, you can turn your car into a version of your smartphone. Indeed, go for a CONNECT trim level and there's a Samsung Galaxy A3 mobile phone as part of the package.

The car will talk to Android or Apple operating systems, letting you talk to the world with safety and ease, or listen to your favourite music. It will, with a new SEAT CONNECT App, let you monitor your heartbeat, but best not check moments after that idiot pulled out in front of you without looking.

The CONNECT version of this Ibiza revamp looks like the sweet spot of the range and comes pretty well loaded with kit. As well as the cleverness outlined above there is satellite navigation, DAB radio and a six speaker sound system with Bluetooth.

A pair of 1.0 litre petrol engines are available, one with a turbo and more power. Next up is the four-cylinder 1.2 litre of the car you see here, with more than useful performance on a mix of country roads, where the 43mpg shown at journey's end seemed about par for the course.

And with every inch covered this latest, mildly tweaked Ibiza displayed the crispness in response from steering, clutch, gearchange and brakes that mark it out as a member of the VW Group family.

Which makes it a bit of a bargain if you choose carefully.

TESTED

SEAT Ibiza SC CONNECT 1.2 TSI 90PS

Price: £14,170

Drivetrain: 1.2 litre 89bhp petrol engine, 5-speed gearbox

Performance: Top speed 114mph, 0-62mph 10.7 seconds

Economy: Euro average 56.7mpg CO2 116g/km road tax £0 first year, then £30

Safety: EuroNCAP 5 stars

Insurance: 13

Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles



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Diesel version also available – ask for details



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Diesel version also available – ask for details



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- 2 x USB/HDMI connection
- 6 speakers
- rear parking camera
- climate control dual auto a/c
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All cars come with the balance of 3 years warranty and AA cover, choice of colours. Pictures for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previous offers.

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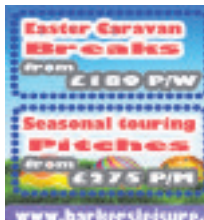
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VAUXHALL ASTRA California, 1994, 59,000 genuine miles, months MoT, good runner, £180 ono. 07811 878705.

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Signing on under the eye of chairman John Ireland

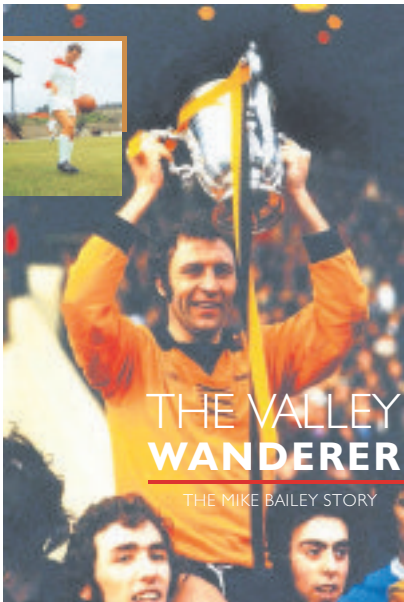


I still cannot believe that my hero Mike Bailey asked me to help with this book. I saw every one of Mike's home games for Wolves and a number of his away ones too. At first I was in awe of one of my boyhood heroes, the greatest captain of my beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers that I saw in action. But in the many meetings that I have had with Mike and his wife Barbara I have always been made to feel very welcome and completely at ease. Mike was a true great to me but he is quite simply a lovely bloke who still doesn't fully appreciate how highly he is regarded by fans of all of his former clubs. Supporting Mike with this book has been a learning experience for me, finding out about his times at Charlton, Brighton and elsewhere, as well as the proud stories of his career at Molineux. However, it has been a privilege and a hugely enjoyable journey. Thanks for having me along Mike, you are a top man.

Clive has written two books on Wolverhampton Wanderers: Those were the days (1964-1977) and Out of Darkness (1977-1990).



£14.99
ISBN 978-0-9929826-5-2



Mike Bailey is a true son of Norfolk who turned his boyhood passion for football into an illustrious career spanning four decades. He started out at Charlton Athletic and made his first team debut in 1960. He quickly won the hearts of fans as an energetic and tough tackling midfield dynamo, and was very soon made their skipper. In 1964 Mike became the Wolves' first full England international for eleven years. A few months before England's 1966 World Cup triumph Mike signed for Wolverhampton Wanderers and in his first full season at Molineux led them back to the First Division. He was the talismanic leader who guided the swashbuckling Wolves team of the seventies to the best top flight finish to date, a first major trophy in 14 years and numerous European adventures.

In 1977 he went on to new challenges in Minneapolis in the North American Soccer League before returning home to try his hand at management. Mike set off with a short spell at Hereford United, and in the autumn of 1979 Mike returned to The Valley. He became Charlton manager the following year and launched them to promotion from Division 3. He was then persuaded to work under Mike Bamber at Brighton and Hove Albion. Two seasons at the Goldstone Ground saw the Seagulls achieve their highest league position while Mike's team also made it to the 1983 FA Cup final. Although he later took on posts in Greece and the lower English leagues, he realised that there are more important things in life than football.

Mike now enjoys the tranquil life and the joys of his extended family in Surrey along with his wife Barbara. 'The Valley Wanderer' tells the story of a man who was fiercely competitive on the field, and still is on the golf course, but whose laid back disposition makes him hugely well-liked by former team mates and opponents alike. Mike Bailey is a reassuringly down to earth man who is admired by all who meet him, whether they are celebrities or ordinary folk. The book is the gentle tale of a Norfolk boy who lived his dreams but always remembers his roots.



The Valley Wanderer, the Mike Bailey Story, is available to buy at £14.99 and charts the player's success with his two most well-known teams, Wolves and Charlton



Wolves boss Ronnie Allen shows Bailey the way



Bailey and his wife Barbara with Clive Corbett at the book launch

50-year anniversary of golden great's signing

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Clive Corbett

The atmosphere was friendly but electric and he knew he wanted to play in games like this every week

Former Chronicle editor and keen Wolves fan Steve Gordos remembers that November match.

"My first proper glimpse of this all-action man was when he figured in a Charlton side playing against a newly-relegated Wolves in a Second Division clash at Molineux which ended 2-2," he said.

"Wolves led at half-time after Hughie McIlmoyle broke the deadlock, but Bailey was very much in evidence when he burst through to equalise.

"Ron Saunders – yes that Ron Saunders – missed a penalty but then put the Londoners ahead before Wolves levelled within two minutes thanks to a neat header from Ernie Hunt."

What really impressed Bailey was the Molineux crowd. He recalls how they really got behind the team. The atmosphere was friendly but electric and he knew he wanted to play in games like this every week.

It was at the end of February 1966 when Wolves and Charlton agreed terms for Bailey's transfer.

Wolves were playing Derby at the Baseball Ground and while the spoils were being shared, Bailey was helping Charlton to a 2-1 win at Leyton Orient – it proved to be his last game for the Addicks.

Two days later, Monday February 28, the England international – Bailey won two caps against the US and Wales – was at Molineux and liked what he saw, agreeing to join Wolves for a fee of £40,000. A day earlier he had celebrated his 24th birthday and would prove to be an inspirational figure at Molineux.

Having had a look around and spoken with chairman John Ireland and boss Allen, Bailey was impressed, but really wanted some time to discuss things with his wife Barbara.

"She was working in London, had never been to the Midlands and would be away from her family, so it was a big decision for her as well," Bailey recalls.

Formalities

"The deal was completed in the shortest possible time for I left London at 12 o'clock and was back at six having spent no more than half an hour completing the formalities at Molineux.

"I was sad to leave Charlton and I am always made very welcome at The Valley."

Within a period of a little over 12 months Bailey had succeeded the great Ron Flowers as captain and led Wolves back to Division One. In May 1967 he was named Evening Mail West Midlands Footballer of the Year.

As 'The Valley Wanderer' charts, Bailey was the talismanic leader who guided Wolves to their best top flight finish to date, a first major trophy in 14 years and numerous European adventures.

For a copy of the book email Clive Corbett at gp-books@hotmail.co.uk

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Sport

Celebrating 50 years since a golden great joined Wolves
See Page 43



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Sales boost just the ticket for Heathens

CRADLEY Heathens fans have broken the club record for season ticket sales in the modern era.
Heathens, who are preparing for their seventh season since the club returned to league racing, have returned to Wolvehampton's Monmore Green for home meetings. They open on Easter Monday, March 28, against Belle Vue with a revamped side.

Fans can meet returning hero Ashley Morris this Saturday when he launches the new official team clothing at the club shop in Market Square from noon-2pm.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "On behalf of the riders and myself I want to thank all the fans who have backed us in numbers before the season has even started."

"It's an amazing effort, more than 250 fans have bought season tickets and we have now gone through the club record for the modern era since we reformed in 2010."

"It also give the owners the incentive to keep going despite a lack of progress with a new stadium, for them to know the support is still there - with many more returning after not going to Perry Barr last year - is a real boost."

"There is also an amazing amount of sponsorship and advertising, that will be evident when we reveal the new race jacket at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on March 21."

Heathens have been backed by ISC Teamwear who have sponsored the team clothing and there will be stock available for fans to purchase on Saturday.

ISC have added Cradley as their first Speedway club and are partners to Rugby League giants Warrington Wolves, Leeds Rhinos and Hull FC.

Fans attending the launch on Saturday can also snap up their tickets for the season lunch night on March 21 for £5 with all profits going to the riders.

Eggington's titles are ripped away by challenger Skeete

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington saw his British and Commonwealth belts ripped away by Bradley Skeete at the Genting Arena, Birmingham on Saturday.

Kal Yafai wiped out Dixon Flores in a round to claim the WBA Inter-Continental super flyweight title, while Marcus Ffrench halted Michael Rooney in 55 seconds. Brummie Karl Wiggins lost the Midlands welterweight belt after he was knocked down for a second time in the fifth by Derby's Ryan Fields.

Gamal Yafai took the Commonwealth super bantamweight strap from Bobby Jenkinson after the champion's corner threw in the towel in the seventh.

Cello Renda beat Mike Byles in a six-round super middleweight bout. Jordan Cooke stopped Lee Connelly with 26 seconds left of their Lightweight four-round.

Tipton's unbeaten Ricky Summers outpointed gatekeeper Carl Wild for the eight-round British Classic Challenge light heavyweight strap on Friday.

Priory Park stablemates Josh Miller and Les Byfield had victories over Mark Till and Qasim Husaain respectively.

Glassboys put Gladiators to the sword

Stourbridge 4 Matlock Town 1

THE Glassboys comprehensively beat Matlock Town 4-1 at Amblecote to move into the play-off positions in the Evo Stik Northern Premier.

It was a dominant performance from Gary Hackett's men, who looked the better team from the start against the Gladiators.

Chris Lait got the scoring under way on 15 minutes when he twisted and turned on the edge of the box before driving the ball home.

It was 2-0 on 24 minutes when Kristian Green bagged his second goal of the season, getting on the end of a low Justin Richards cross to turn it in

Football

off the post. Matt Gould in the Stourbridge goal made a good save from Liam Gaughan in the 34th minute as Matlock responded.

But at the other end, Karl Hawley saw a shot tipped over and from the resulting corner, Joe Hull hit the inside of the post with a header, the ball bouncing out.

Four minutes after the break Stourbridge effectively wrapped the game up when Matt Dodd

was tripped in the area and got up to score the penalty himself.

Pinpoint

But the best goal was saved for last on 73 minutes when Richards sent the ball diagonally to Dodd on the edge of the area and his pinpoint cross was finished off by Leon Broadhurst.

The visitors scrambled a late goal through Liam Needham.

Stourbridge: Gould, Green (Smikle 70), Scarr, Geddes, Hull, Pierpoint, Dodd, Broadhurst, Hawley (Singh 77), Richards, Lait (Vincent 70). Subs not used: Billingham, Whittall.

STOUR DEFENCE STANDS FIRM

Stourbridge 15 Sedgley Park 7

A MORE confident Stour performance saw their defences given a workout.

Stour's handling and set-piece were considerably improved, paying dividends before the soft surface cut up.

Playing into a stiff breeze, the opening exchanges saw Stour under pressure after a break by Sedgley scrum half Callum McShane who was hauled down just short by the covering Sam Wilkes. They cleared their lines but had to scramble again when winger Sam Lowthian worked clear, centres Joe Heatley and James Otutaha putting in last ditch tackles to deny the visitors.

Heatley hit an inside pass at full speed to wrongfoot Sedgley's defensive line. Clean through at halfway he left the fullback for dead and outstripped the covering wingers, scoring a spectacular solo effort.

Sedgley got little change out of the Stour defence until a high tackle gave centre Matt Riley a shot a goal that he pulled wide. Stour kicked a penalty to touch from which they launched short drives that produced a try under the posts for loosehead prop Stef Thorpe. Chris Scott converted.

The first scrum of the second half produced a deliberate knock on by McShane that was penalised, giving Scott the most straightforward of kicks at goal. A no-arms tackle shortly after gave Scott another shot from further out and it fell short.

Sedgley ran tap penalties and managed to fashion an overlap but were denied when flanker Joe Carpenter smothered. Stour coughed up a soft lineout turnover and Sedgley replacement Harri Greville barged over from short range, Riley converting.

Sedgley continued to attack from deep, leaving themselves vulnerable to counterattack which came when a loose ball was picked off by Billy Harding who hared upfield only to be brought down short. A score looked likely as the ball was worked wide but the move was killed by an off-side intervention by Sedgley no 8 Matt Lamprey, who finished his game in the sinbin. Stour kicked for the corner and wound the clock down, Heatley blotting his copybook by knocking-on with the line at his mercy. Sedgley's final attack foundered near halfway as Stour secured the win.

Stour next take on Tynedale at Newcastle Falcons' Kingston Park on March 19.



Centre Joe Heatley crosses the line to add to confident Stourbridge's score after a 50m break

DK runners race to distance results in Wales

ATHLETES from Dudley King-swinford Running club were spoilt for choice at the weekend with plenty of races to choose from over varying terrain and distances.

The weekend started with a group travelling to Wales to take part in the Rhyader 20, a classic marathon prep race around the Elan Valley Reser-

voirs. Simon Hughes was first back for the club in 2.21.11 to take 25th place, Darran Bishop chased him home in 41st place in 2.24.12, Mark Homer finished in 72nd place in 2.35.02 to take fourth in his age group, Graham Wildgoose was 99th in 2.39.25.

In Milton Keynes for another 20 miler, Andy Morrison finishing in 3.01.51 to take 450th

place. Going a little further over the 26.2 mile marathon distance in North Wales was the husband and wife team of Alison and Keith Whitehouse, who took part in the Wrexham Marathon. Alison recording a time of 4.33.40 to finish in 119th place and Keith finishing in 5.14.56 to take 144th out of 151 competitors.

Extras are Enville A's top scorer

Pedmore (111-1) beat Enville 'A' (78 all out) by 33 runs

PEDMORE openers Dan Jones and Matt Porter started well, Jones taking 14 off Tom Bingham's first over before he then retired in the third over, replaced by John Hurdman.

He continued the scoring with captain Porter until he also retired on 25. James Burgoyne was Enville's only success when run-out chasing the runs on 103. Hurdman became the third to retire with an over to go.

Enville lost Matt Branch for five in the opening over. Young Callum White, given the opportunity to open the bowling, lacked some direction but bowled well containing the Enville batsman. Wayne Holt making his debut also produced a decent spell after a nervous start returning 1-15 off three overs. The Enville batsman fell away with only George Roberts showing resistance and taking 15 off one James Burgoyne over. Extras was top scorer with 25.

Swindon (110 all out) beat Enville 'B' (93 all out) by 17 runs

SWINDON elected to bat but their openers struggled to put runs on the board against some decent bowling, then lost opener Dan Wale run out for 11.

Lee Passmore added impetus and scoring became easier. Swindon lost their second wicket at 62, then their remaining batsman, seemingly with another appointment to attend, played some nice shots but the running was poor, the five remaining batsman all run out.

Enville 'B' in reply opened with regulars Jono Howells (12) and Nick Inley who looked confident of chasing down the score. The introduction of Larry Langston for Swindon put the brakes on the innings in his 2.3 overs, taking 2-5.

Inley was run out for 29 and the innings closed 93 all out in the last over.

Clarke off bench to hit goal on debut

Halesowen Town 2 Ilkeston FC 0
SUBSTITUTE Tyree Clarke fired Halesowen to their first home win since November just seconds after arriving on the pitch on his home debut.

Chances were few and far between before Halesowen finally broke through in the 69th minute when Ashley Parsons-Smith crossed from the right and Kaiman Anderson headed on for Clarke to control and smash home with his first touch of the game.

Melvin soon doubled Halesowen's lead by converting a penalty six minutes later after Jay Denny was brought down by Ilkeston substitute Luis Rose.

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